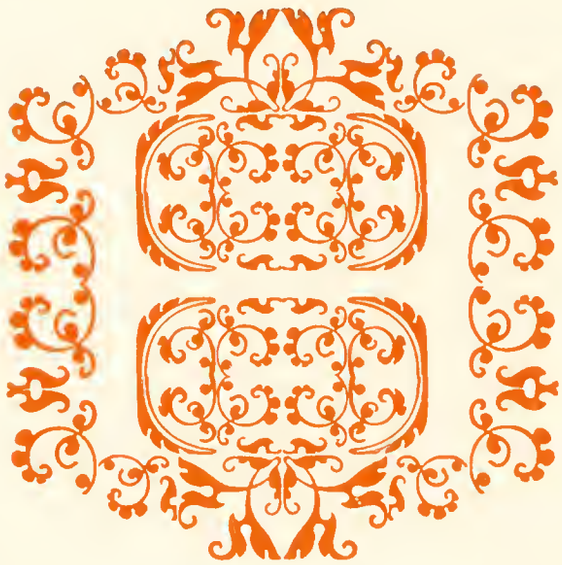
Hunt. Soc.
Hebron
L. 20.
Lxxxvii. c. 7



Kenneth Garth Huston

P & S. Economy

CH -

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29000816_0004

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY

Dr. Lettsom.

LETTER ON PRISONS. No. LXI.

Thou, fair Religion, wast design'd,
  Duteous daughter of the skies,
To warm and cheer the human mind,
  To make men happy, good, and wise.

To point, where sits in love array'd,
  Attentive to each suppliant call,
The God of universal aid,
  The God, the Father of us all.

PENROSE.

Sambrook Court, Nov. 1.

IT must be truly gratifying to the friends of Virtue, to contemplate this classical City (Oxford), where science is inculcated, where religion and morals are promoted, laudably corresponding with the injunctions of the Author of our Faith, "I was in prison, and you visited me," in affording prisoners every accommodation and comfort consistently with their unhappy situation.

In this seat of science, and retreat of the studious and contemplative, the mind, composed under the influence of Philosophy and Religion, is prepared to hear that gentle voice which inspires benevolence, and warms the affections with the amities of the Gospel; and man, by imitating the divine Archetype, learns to feel for misery and to succour distress: that Archetype, who exercised an early example of his high mission on a lunatic*, and breathed his last aspiration to console a prisoner and malefactor, to whom this calm voice of deity was extended, of an assurance, even in the agonies of crucifixion, "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

In the tumults and agitations of this busy world, and in the eager pursuits of perishable objects, this gentle voice, which all have heard, though all have not attended to, is awfully and sublimely illustrated by the prophet Elias: "Go forth, and stand upon the mountain to meet the Lord; and, lo! while the Lord is about to pass, a great and mighty wind shall precede him; rending the mountains, and shivering the rocks; but the Lord will not be in the wind. The wind will be followed by an earthquake: but the Lord will not be in the earthquake. The earthquake will be followed by lightning: but the Lord will not be in the lightning. But, after the lightning, there will be heard a calm, gentle voice." (I Kings, xix. 12.)

How sublimely are these conceptions of the violent agitations of the physical elements expressive of the unruly passions of man, and of his bold presumption of life and gratification! How impressively contrasted is the serenity of the calm, gentle voice, which seems to have inspired the magistrates of Oxford, in a degree of approach to perfection in their prisons! But the perusal of the following letter evinces that something is yet to be done before the happy accomplishment be attained, especially as to the renewed attention in promoting industry and labour in useful employment, as highly conducive to sobriety and good morals.

J. C. LETTSOM.

OXFORD. The Castle Gaol. Gaoler, *Daniel Harris*; Salary, £.105. and a gratuity annually from the Magistates of £.52. 10*s*. Fees, as *per* Table; besides which the Under Sheriff demands 3*s*. 6*d*. for his *liberate!* Garnish, abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Richard Graham*: Duty, Prayers and Sermon on Sunday; the Sacrament four times a year. Salary, £.42. Surgeon, Mr. *Rawlins*; Salary, £.30. 5*s*. Number of Prisoners, August 30, 1806, Debtors 26, Felons, &c. 9. Allowance: To Debtors, see Remarks. To Felons, sixteen pennyworth of bread weekly; those who have 1¼lb. of bread *per* day, and a quart of soup four days in the week.

REMARKS. This Gaol has a very castellated appearance. The boundary-wall encloses about three acres of ground; and, being at a considerable distance from the Prison, affords the Keeper a convenient garden, which supplies, not only his family, but the whole Prison, with sufficient vegetables. On one side the entrance is the Turnkey's Lodge about 16 feet square, with a room above for himself and assistants to sleep in, an office, and a store-room. On the other side, corresponding therewith, is a reception-room for Vagrants or Prisoners brought in at night, and above it a Lazaretto. There are a warm and a cold bath, a general kitchen and bakehouse for the use of the Gaol,

* I have ever admired, in a medical point of view, this sententious and expressive history of the symptoms of mania. Mark v. 3, 4, 5.

Gaol, and rooms above for the prisoners cloaths, and the Gaol uniform. Up-stairs is a remarkably neat Chapel, where the Prisoners are seated in classes, out of sight of each other; and the flat roof above is the place of execution.

In the centre of the area is the Keeper's House, which overlooks all the inner court-yards, and the Visiting Magistrates Committee-room. The wing to the right of the Gaoler's House is attached to the old Tower. The bottom part contains three day-rooms for Debtors, 16 feet by 12, with a fire-place in each, appropriated to the three classes, two for males, and one for females; also nine sleeping rooms, 11 feet by 8 each, with boarded floors and glazed windows, to which the Debtor brings his own bed, or hires one from the town. *No room-rent whatever is paid.* The first story contains twelve sleeping-rooms, the same as those below.

At the East end is a circular bastion, 28 feet diameter, at present (1806) unfinished, four stories high, each containing two rooms of a semi-circular form, 30 feet by 15, with a fire-place in each: these are intended for work and sleeping-rooms. No employment is furnished by the County; but those who can procure it from without are allowed to work, and receive the whole of their earnings.

At the end of this building, and adjoining the Old Tower, are four cells, 11 feet by 8 each, to which there is a day-room, of an irregular polygon shape, about 25 feet by 13. These are intended for the separation of Prisoners, such as King's Evidence, refractory, &c. The ground-floor of the Old Tower is the dungeon, 20 feet square and 20 feet high, the floor of which is mud, and it receives a glimering light through a small treble-bar iron-grating, 15 feet high, just sufficient to make darkness visible. This is used as a black-hole, for the short confinement of those taken in an actual attempt to escape, or the very unruly and turbulent.

The first floor contains a room of the same size as the dungeon below: it has a boarded floor, with one treble-bar iron-grated window, and is called the Condemned Room. The second and third stories contain each one room, the same size as those below; but the Keeper assured me they had not been used these fifteen years. The upper-room of this Tower is of the same size as the others: it has a boarded floor, one window, and a large lanthorn light; and is intended for the use of Debtors (as formerly) if found necessary. An engine throws water into a leaden cistern, from which every part of the Gaol is well supplied. The sewers are conveniently constructed, and not offensive.

To the left of the Keeper's House is a detached wing for Felons and Convicts, which consists of two divisions, *viz.* the first and second class of Felons, and first and second class of Convicts, each with a distinct court-yard of about 60 feet by 40, and a day-room, with a fire-place in each. The ground-floor of this wing contains 16 work-sheds under arcades, about nine feet by seven and ten feet high. These are divided by a lobby or passage 88 feet long and five feet wide; at each end of which is a day or work-room, the one 25 feet by 15, the other circular and 28 feet diameter.

The first story contains seven cells for the first class of Felons, and eight cells for the second class of Convicts, separated by a lobby, with a day-room at each end, the same as below. The second story contains seven cells for the first class of Convicts, and eight cells for the second class; in every respect like those on the first story. The third, or attic story, contains two Infirmaries, one of 24 feet by 10, for male criminals; the other, of 16 feet by 10, for females; and on each side of the leads there is a flat, upon which convalescents are separately permitted to take the air.

Each cell in the foregoing wing is rather *singularly fitted up* with a Yorkshire stone, or an elm-plank bedstead, six feet three inches long, by only 24 inches wide, on stone bearers, a sedge mattress, coarse hempen sheet, blanket, and rug. These cells are well lighted and ventilated, with an inside shutter to their iron-grated window. On the first and second story is a small room for the Watchman, or Inner Turnkey.

Behind the Keeper's House, and on each side, are separate buildings and yards, which now constitute the House of Correction, instead of those formerly occupied at Thame and Witney.

It

It consists of two detached wings for men and women. On the ground-floor are ten sleeping-cells, eight feet by six feet six, and ten feet high, with arched roofs to each wing; also a day-room to each, 20 feet by 15, with a fire-place, and a court-yard 40 feet by 25.

The upper story has the same number of sleeping-cells and day-rooms; the whole forming four classes, according to the several descriptions of Prisoners. For many years I contemplated with pleasure that system of management and regulation which did so much honour to the County Magistrates, and the enviable pitch of maturity to which it had arrived. The Prisoners were constantly employed in sawing of stone or wood, or in gardening, &c. &c. so that in the year 1787 there was a balance saved to the County of £.113. 9*s.* 2*d.* The Prisoners had such a share of their earnings at the time of discharge as their good behaviour entitled them to; this proved the means of recovering many from their bad habits, and of rendering them useful members of society. But the working system is discontinued, and no employment whatever is furnished. This sufficiently shews how liable any new regulation is to fall into neglect, if not constantly the object of care and attion. It is more than twenty years since this Gaol was begun, and it is not yet (1808) finished, or even rendered secure.

Donations to the Castle Gaol.

Thomas Horde, by will, dated August 6, 1709, left £.24. a year to be distributed among prisoners of *both* sorts, at £.2. a month. For the payment he bound an estate in Oxfordshire: and to make up any deficiency of that estate, he bound an estate in Berkshire. But this estate *having been recovered against the Charity since his death*, the Prisoners have now only thirty-three shillings a month, which is paid by the President of Trinity College.

There is another legacy to Prisoners of both sorts, 8*s.* 8*d.* paid quarterly from Magdalen College. From which also, in Lent, there is about forty shillings, called *forfeit money*. From Merton College, sixpence *per* week, in bread, to Debtors. Corpus Christi College, and other Colleges, send 7*s.* 6*d.* every month, in bread, and a peck of oatmeal for Debtors. Soup is sent from several Colleges frequently in the Winter, but at no stated periods.

Christ Church College sends fifty shillings every Christmas, and six pounds of mutton every Saturday, of which Debtors partake in common: and the Vice Chancellor gives annually 30*s.* at Christmas.

The Rev. Mr. *Swinton*, formerly Chaplain to this Gaol, bequeathed the interest of £.100. three *per Cent.* South Sea Annuities, to be distributed in bread (three penny loaves) every Sunday while it lasts, to each Prisoner who regularly attends Chapel.

Every Prisoner was present at Divine Service on my visit (August 31, 1806) and their behaviour was orderly and attentive.

My dear Friend,

It will give you pleasure to be informed that the Castle Gaol is now ordered to be finished, under the direction of that able Architect Mr. *Moneypenny*, of whose professional abilities the Gaols of Winchester and Leicester, and the House of Correction at Exeter, will stand as lasting records to posterity. By this spirited exertion the Gentlemen of this County will erect a *monument* of their attention to the health and morals of Prisoners, and there will be no danger of another *Black Assize**. I am, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

James Neild.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

---

* In Baker's Chronicle, p. 353, that Historian, mentioning the Assize held in Oxford Castle 1557 (called from its fatal consequence the *Black Assize*), informs us, that "all who were present died within 40 hours: the Lord Chief Baron, the Sheriff, and about three hundred more."

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXII. ON PRISONS.

Σοφια πρωτον αγνη εστιν επειτα ειρηνικη.

Sambrook Court,
Dec. 1.

I HAVE had many occasions of observing, that in those counties or departments, where the Magistrates have maintained distinguished moral character, and have discharged their functions with honourable exertion, the population has been more virtuous, and the prisoner better protected and employed; insomuch that a stranger might say, "Shew me the Prison, and I can estimate the character of the People." It is pleasing, therefore, to see, in this range of induction, that the seat of Learning is the seat of Morality.

If true Religion be cultivated, Charity will be its genuine offspring; and may it be suggested to the ingenuous students to take a lesson now and then from the Prisons? As an impulse to such an exercise, we might appeal to the highest authority, in the sacred volume of our Religion. The young Clergyman, who should thus devote a portion of his time, would be led to contemplate with sympathy a neglected Being, heir of immortality, though yet dead to moral sentiment; and how dignified would be the character of him who thus tutored in religious knowledge, when retired from the University, should visit in his department or living, and reclaim, a lost sheep; which, under a beautiful characteristic of philanthropy, is said, even to give joy in Heaven! thus verifying the motto, that "Wisdom is first pure, then peaceable." J. C. Lettsom.

Oxford. The City Gaol. Gaoler, *Thomas Wharton;* salary, £.52. 10*s.* fees, Debtors, 9*s.* 2*d.*; Misdemeanors, 3*s.* 4*d.* Felons, none. No Table. Garnish, none. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Penson:* duty, Sunday, Prayers and Sermon; salary, £.10. 10*s.* Surgeon, Mr. *Rawlins:* makes a bill. Number of Prisoners August 30, 1806: Debtor, one, Felons, &c. six. Allowance for Debtors, none regularly established: but see the *Remarks. Felons*, and other *criminal Prisoners*, have each eight pounds and eleven ounces of best wheaten bread *per* week, sent in twice weekly from the baker's, in loaves of 4 lbs. 5½ oz. each. These I found to be very exact, there being weights and scales provided by the City for the use of the Prisoners. Those who can procure employment from without are allowed to work, and have the whole of their earnings, but not the City allotment of bread, as above. At my visit in 1806, I found all the seven prisoners employed; but four of them, not being able to maintain themselves entirely, had the City bread.

Remarks. This Gaol is surrounded by a boundary-wall 20 feet high, inclosing about an acre of ground; and being at the distance of 25 feet from the Prison, the Keeper has a convenient garden within it for the growth of vegetables.

There is an Alarm-bell at the top of the Prison. The Gaoler's house, which is in the centre, fronts the outer gate, and has, on each side, a small flower-garden, 40 feet by 20, fenced in with open palisades. At the entrance is a small room about 10 feet square, in which the Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against the Use of Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up.

In the above room, on an old door, and engraved on a brass plate, as if *in perpetuam rei memoriam*, is the following

Inscription:

"This Door was at the entrance of a cell, in the old City Gaol Boccardo, called '*The Bishops' Room*;' wherein the Bishops *Cranmer*, *Ridley*, and *Latimer*, were confined; and from whence they were taken, to suffer martyrdom in the Town-ditch, behind the houses opposite Baliol College, in the reign of Queen Mary."

Over the Door are the heads of the three Prelates, burnt in wood.

Here are five Court-yards, each about 54 feet by 29, inclosed with open wood palisades; three of them assigned for Criminals, and two for Male and Female Debtors. The two Court-yards which front the entrance have Arcades for shelter in wet weather, or for the Prisoners to work in. Every court has a sewer, and is well supplied with water.

The

The ground-floor of the Prison contains the Visiting Magistrates' Committee-room; the Gaoler's Kitchen; also a place called "The Hall," an irregular octagon of 23 feet diameter; and two day-rooms for Criminal Prisoners, one for men, the other for women, with fire-places and shelves in each to deposit their provisions.

The Hall has on each side a lobby, 43 feet long and five feet wide, with three work-cells, eight feet by six, and nine feet high to the crown of the arch: both the lobbies terminate with a staircase leading to the Chapel, which is on the first-floor, and of the same size with the Hall beneath it. The Chapel is open above to the top of the building, with a sky-light in the roof. The Prisoners are disposed according to their classes; the Debtors seated below, the Felons in the Gallery, and all in full view both of the Chaplain and Gaoler.

On each side of the Chapel is a lobby, similar to those below, each containing eight sleeping-cells with double doors, the outer one iron-grated, the inner of wood. They are eight feet by six and nine feet high, well lighted and ventilated, and fitted up with elm-plank bedsteads on stone bearers six feet long, and 22 inches only wide, and supplied with a sedge mat, and three blankets each.

Here are also two day-rooms for Debtors, about 14 feet square, with fire-places, and a sleeping-room, furnished with beds by the Keeper at 1*s.* 6*d. per* week each.

A criminal prisoner in his proper department, is allowed to bring his own bed, or else hires one from the Keeper, at a shilling or eighteen pence *per* week.

Common-side Debtors, who have not beds of their own, and cannot afford to pay, sleep in the cells above-mentioned.

The second, or attic story, contains two dark cells for refractory Prisoners; two lazarettos for such as are infected with cutaneous or other disorders, so as to render their admission among the other Prisoners improper; and sixteen sleeping-cells. Also two hospital-rooms, with fire-places, for the men and women, each 15 feet square, and a water-closet in each. The Surgeon's Dispensary is close adjoining to the Infirmaries, and from these a small door opens to the Gallery of the Chapel. Above the Dispensary is a large cistern, replenished with water by a forcing-pump placed at the back of the Gaol, which plentifully supplies the whole Prison.

No Gaol uniform is here provided, but if any Prisoners on entrance are found ragged or in offensive apparel, they are supplied with others, by an order from the Magistrates. Here i no oven to purify infected clothes s but towels, soap, &c. are allowed by the City for Prison cleanliness. Coals in the winter, meat and soup, are frequently sent in by the considerate Magistrates; and when a Prisoner is ill, the Surgeon has a discretionary power to order such food, and other accommodation, as he thinks necessary.

The Magistrates visit here in monthly rotation, and enter their remarks in a book kept for that very useful purpose. Here are seldom any Debtors; none being sent hither but by writ issuing from the City Court.

Upon their discharge, and if they have behaved well under their confinement, money is given to the Prisoners, according to their respective distance from home; and all are humanely discharged *in the morning:* No Rules and Orders. The Prison clean.

I am, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXII. ON PRISONS.

Σοφια πρωτον αγνη εστιν επειτα ειρηνικη.

Sambrook Court,
Dec. 1.

I HAVE had many occasions of observing, that in those counties or departments, where the Magistrates have maintained distinguished moral character, and have discharged their functions with honourable exertion, the population has been more virtuous, and the prisoner better protected and employed; insomuch that a stranger might say, "Shew me the Prison, and I can estimate the character of the People." It is pleasing, therefore, to see, in this range of induction, that the seat of Learning is the seat of Morality.

If true Religion be cultivated, Charity will be its genuine offspring; and may it be suggested to the ingenuous students to take a lesson now and then from the Prisons? As an impulse to such an exercise, we might appeal to the highest authority, in the sacred volume of our Religion. The young Clergyman, who should thus devote a portion of his time, would be led to contemplate with sympathy a neglected Being, heir of immortality, though yet dead to moral sentiment; and how dignified would be the character of him who thus tutored in religious knowledge, when retired from the University, should visit in his department or living, and reclaim, a lost sheep; which, under a beautiful characteristic of philanthropy, is said, even to give joy in Heaven! thus verifying the motto, that "Wisdom is first pure, then peaceable." J. C. Lettsom.

Oxford. The City Gaol. Gaoler, *Thomas Wharton;* salary, £.52. 10*s.* fees, Debtors, 9*s.* 2*d.*; Misdemeanors, 3*s.* 4*d.* Felons, none. No Table. Garnish, none. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Penson:* duty, Sunday, Prayers and Sermon; salary, £.10. 10*s.* Surgeon, Mr. *Rawlins:* makes a bill. Number of Prisoners August 30, 1806: Debtor, one, Felons, &c. six. Allowance for Debtors, none regularly established: but see the *Remarks. Felons*, and other *criminal Prisoners*, have each eight pounds and eleven ounces of best wheaten bread *per* week, sent in twice weekly from the baker's, in loaves of 4 lbs. 5½ oz. each. These I found to be very exact, there being weights and scales provided by the City for the use of the Prisoners. Those who can procure employment from without are allowed to work, and have the whole of their earnings, but not the City allotment of bread, as above. At my visit in 1806, I found all the seven prisoners employed; but four of them, not being able to maintain themselves entirely, had the City bread.

Remarks. This Gaol is surrounded by a boundary-wall 20 feet high, inclosing about an acre of ground; and being at the distance of 25 feet from the Prison, the Keeper has a convenient garden within it for the growth of vegetables.

There is an Alarm-bell at the top of the Prison. The Gaoler's house, which is in the centre, fronts the outer gate, and has, on each side, a small flower-garden, 40 feet by 20, fenced in with open palisades. At the entrance is a small room about 10 feet square, in which the Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against the Use of Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up.

In the above room, on an old door, and engraved on a brass plate, as if *in perpetuam rei memoriam*, is the following

Inscription:

"This Door was at the entrance of a cell, in the old City Gaol Boccardo, called '*The Bishops' Room*;' wherein the Bishops *Cranmer*, *Ridley*, and *Latimer*, were confined; and from whence they were taken, to suffer martyrdom in the Town-ditch, behind the houses opposite Baliol College, in the reign of Queen Mary."

Over the Door are the heads of the three Prelates, burnt in wood.

Here are five Court-yards, each about 54 feet by 29, inclosed with open wood palisades; three of them assigned for Criminals, and two for Male and Female Debtors. The two Court-yards which front the entrance have Arcades for shelter in wet weather, or for the Prisoners to work in. Every court has a sewer, and is well supplied with water.

The

The ground-floor of the Prison contains the Visiting Magistrates' Committee-room; the Gaoler's Kitchen; also a place called "The Hall," an irregular octagon of 23 feet diameter; and two day-rooms for Criminal Prisoners, one for men, the other for women, with fire-places and shelves in each to deposit their provisions.

The Hall has on each side a lobby, 43 feet long and five feet wide, with three work-cells, eight feet by six, and nine feet high to the crown of the arch: both the lobbies terminate with a staircase leading to the Chapel, which is on the first-floor, and of the same size with the Hall beneath it. The Chapel is open above to the top of the building, with a sky-light in the roof. The Prisoners are disposed according to their classes; the Debtors seated below, the Felons in the Gallery, and all in full view both of the Chaplain and Gaoler.

On each side of the Chapel is a lobby, similar to those below, each containing eight sleeping-cells with double doors, the outer one iron-grated, the inner of wood. They are eight feet by six and nine feet high, well lighted and ventilated, and fitted up with elm-plank bedsteads on stone bearers six feet long, and 22 inches only wide, and supplied with a sedge mat, and three blankets each.

Here are also two day-rooms for Debtors, about 14 feet square, with fire-places, and a sleeping-room, furnished with beds by the Keeper at 1*s.* 6*d. per* week each.

A criminal prisoner in his proper department, is allowed to bring his own bed, or else hires one from the Keeper, at a shilling or eighteen pence *per* week.

Common-side Debtors, who have not beds of their own, and cannot afford to pay, sleep in the cells above-mentioned.

The second, or attic story, contains two dark cells for refractory Prisoners; two lazarettos for such as are infected with cutaneous or other disorders, so as to render their admission among the other Prisoners improper; and sixteen sleeping-cells. Also two hospital-rooms, with fire-places, for the men and women, each 15 feet square, and a water-closet in each. The Surgeon's Dispensary is close adjoining to the Infirmaries, and from these a small door opens to the Gallery of the Chapel. Above the Dispensary is a large cistern, replenished with water by a forcing-pump placed at the back of the Gaol, which plentifully supplies the whole Prison.

No Gaol uniform is here provided, but if any Prisoners on entrance are found ragged or in offensive apparel, they are supplied with others, by an order from the Magistrates. Here i no oven to purify infected clothes s but towels, soap, &c. are allowed by the City for Prison cleanliness. Coals in the winter, meat and soup, are frequently sent in by the considerate Magistrates; and when a Prisoner is ill, the Surgeon has a discretionary power to order such food, and other accommodation, as he thinks necessary.

The Magistrates visit here in monthly rotation, and enter their remarks in a book kept for that very useful purpose. Here are seldom any Debtors; none being sent hither but by writ issuing from the City Court.

Upon their discharge, and if they have behaved well under their confinement, money is given to the Prisoners, according to their respective distance from home; and all are humanely discharged *in the morning*. No Rules and Orders. The Prison clean.

I am, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE *for* February 1810.

LETTER LXIII. ON PRISONS.

"Didiscit animus serò quod didicit diù *."
SENECA.

Sambrook Court, Jan. 21.

IT is an axiom very universally admitted, that Habit is second Nature; hence the expressions of habits of industry, habits of idleness, &c. as confirmed by general experience. The former disposes to sobriety and morality, whilst the latter affords an inlet to every species of vice. How beneficial to the community would be the result, were the management of Prisoners conducted upon this experience! Contrary, however, to this principle is the system adopted in Northampton County Gaol, where labour is no longer encouraged, because the profit or product is not adequate to the expenditure; but what loss can be more detrimental than the loss of the habit of industry, or what acquisition more dangerous than that of idleness?

An idle profligate thus nurtured, and duly habituated to idleness, let loose upon the publick from such a school of depravity, cannot become an useful member of society. What will be his next gradation of vice, may be answered without further induction from J. C. LETTSOM.

NORTHAMPTON. THE COUNTY GAOL AND BRIDEWELL. — Gaoler, *John Wright.* Salary, £170. for both Gaol and Bridewell; and out of this salary he pays the two turnkeys. Fees, felons, none; debtors pay as follow, *viz.* On discharge, 13*s.* 4*d.* which is accounted for by the Keeper to the County; and to the turnkey, 2*s.*; besides which, the Under-sheriff demands 8*s.* 8*d.* for his *liberate;* total £1. 4*s.* Garnish is prohibited; but if the debtor has any money, 2*s.* 6*d.* is generally exacted by the other prisoners.—Chaplain, Rev. *John Watts.* Duty, prayers twice a week, and sermon on Sunday.—Salary, £50.—Surgeon, Mr. *Hardin.* Salary, £26. for debtors and felons.—Number of prisoners, July 29, 1808: debtors, 14; felons, &c. 25; August 17, 1809, debtors, 6; felons, &c. 24.—Allowance: to debtors, none whatever; to felons and criminal prisoners, each, three shillings and two pence halfpenny: *viz.* three pence in bread daily; in meat, eight pence *per* week; and the remainder in soup, potatoes, &c.

REMARKS. This Gaol is also the County Bridewell. It adjoins to the Town-hall; the turnkey's lodge in front; the Grand Jury room on the first floor; three rooms, each about 23 feet by 14, for men debtors on the second floor; and a smaller one for the women debtors. To these the Keeper furnishes beds and bedding at two shillings *per* week, and two sleep together. If the debtor finds his own bed and bedding, he pays one shilling *per* week. Common-side debtors, if very poor, are sometimes allowed by the County a straw-bed, a sheet, and a rug, each.

Every prisoner who comes in ragged or dirty is put into one of the reception-rooms; his own apparel is then hung up, after being fumigated or purified in a most excellent stove, and the county clothing put on. They

* The mind unlearns with difficulty what it has long learned.

They have clean linen once a week; all are directed to wash themselves before they receive their bread. Here is fine water in every court-yard; and mops, brooms, pails, and soap, are allowed to keep the Prison clean.

On the ground floor is a day-room for the debtors, about 28 feet by 20; and a work-room, 15 feet by 10. The court-yard for both men and women debtors is 51 feet by 42, well supplied with the water, carefully laid on.

Felons and debtors are constantly kept separate, to the honour of this Gaol, and the mutual benefit of all.

The Felons' Gaol and Bridewell is inclosed by a boundary wall, 15 feet distant from the court-yards.

The Keeper's house is in the middle of the Prison; and has, on the first floor, the Chapel of 31 feet by 25, in which there is a gallery for the towns-people, and another for the Gaoler and his family. The debtors and felons sit on forms in the area below, opposite to each other, and frequently towns-people in the centre. The women have a small part pewed off, so high as to be entirely out of view of the Minister, but in sight of the Gaoler.

Over the Chapel are three small infirmary-rooms with iron bedsteads, *screws to raise occasionally the head of the sick prisoner*, and a fire-place in two of them. Here is a large tub for a bath; and an alarm bell in the centre of the building.

In this Gaol there is a spacious court-yard, with a cooking and wash-house, boilers, &c. A yard adjoining, to dry the clothes in, and nine others, for the due separation of the different classes of prisoners; the average size 25 feet by 16. Five day-rooms, of about 17 feet by 10 feet 6. Three work-rooms, each about 28 feet by 22; and 70 single sleeping-cells, Of these latter, male felons have 20 on the first floor, and the same number on the second story, divided by lobbies or passages near six feet wide.

The female felons have five cells on the first floor, and five on the second, which open into an iron-railed gallery, four feet wide. The other cells are for Bridewell prisoners, except 12 on the ground-floor, which are appropriated as reception-rooms, or separate confinement, and two dark cells for the refractory.

Each of the numerous cells before noticed is 10 feet by 7, and 8 feet 10 inches high; and they are fitted up with a plank bedstead, flock or straw bed, one blanket, and a rug, each; all well ventilated and lighted by an iron-grated window about two feet square, a semi-circular iron grating *over* each door, and a grated aperture *in* each door, about five inches square.

A very considerate attention is here paid to those unhappy persons who, being under sentence of death, are left for execution. Removed to a very retired part of the Prison, each has a small court-yard, 9 feet by 7 feet 6, with a sewer, and a day-room the size of the cells above-described, airy, and well ventilated, where the Minister visits him. When the prisoner is locked up for the night, he ascends by a ladder of 14 steps through a grated trap-door in the ceiling of his day-room to the sleeping-cell above, which is the same size.

I found that no employment was *now* provided in this COUNTY GAOL, either for debtors or felons. In some of the rooms, indeed, at my visit in 1801, I saw looms with their work half finished, like Penelope's web. It had an odd appearance; but the lesson was painfully instructive, and our Hogarth might have improved upon it.

The *profits*, it seems, were less than the expenditures on an infant manufactory! and, therefore, the County of Northampton were induced to discontinue the only visible means of checking idleness, and of adding comfort from diligence to the sad privations of imprisonment. In a case like this, how was it possible not to ask, "And have they in Northamptonshire no domestic, no public nurseries of infant human debility? and do they there look for *profit* only, whilst aiming at the attainment of health, at the security of life, and the consequent increase of vigour and of happiness?" My own ideas suggested an answer; but it might be deemed intrusive to proclaim it. Its meaning, however, has long since been summed up in one comprehensive line:

> "*Do good;* and let Heaven answer for the rest."

For

For the beneficial effects of regular employment in prisons, let me again refer the Reader to Dorchester and Gloucester, Gent. Mag. vol. LXXVII. pp. 409, 505, and various other prisons, noticed to their honour in the prosecution of this work.

The dungeons and condemned-room, sunk to the depth of 11 steps under ground, were not stopped up at some of my former visits, neither are they now; but Mr. Wright assured me they had never of late been made use of. This is no security, however, that, under some other administration, they may not be again applied, and aggravate the pains of incarceration.

I found very few of the prisoners ironed; and the irons so used were comparatively light. Convicts under sentence of transportation have the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* only for their support.

This Gaol is regularly visited by the Magistrates and the Surgeon, who enter their several remarks in books kept there for that very useful purpose.

The Prison is white-washed once a year.

No debtor in this Gaol ever received the benefit of the Lord's Act (or Sixpences) till lately, through the exertions of the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons imprisoned for Small Debts.

It would be an act of great humanity, and worthy of this respectable County, if a small sum were given to the pennyless prisoner on his discharge, to carry him home, or to his friends, and prevent hunger from becoming imperious, and his committing some more predatory act, which soon consigns him to his late abode.

The Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are painted on a board, and hung up.

The Prison I have always found very clean; and the Keeper civil and attentive.

Northampton. The Town Gaol and Bridewell.—Gaoler, *Robert Roberts*, Sheriff's Officer, and Bellman for the Town. Salary, £10. Fees, debtors, 10*s.* 6*d.* on commitment, and 13*s.* 4*d.* on discharge. But if the debtor is too poor to pay the fees, they are humanely discharged by the Corporation. Felons' fees, 13*s.* 4*d.* paid by the Corporation. No Table.—Chaplain, none. See Remarks.—Surgeon, Mr. *Blissard;* who makes a bill.—Number of Prisoners, July 29, 1808, debtor, 1; felons, 2; lunatick, 1. August 17, 1809, one lunatick only.—Allowance to debtors, none whatever; to felons and Bridewell prisoners, four pence a day each, in money.

Remarks. This Prison is situate in Fish Lane; and was built in 1792. The Keeper is a tobacco-pipe maker. His house fronts the street, and his windows command a view of the two court-yards for criminal prisoners, which are both 21 feet by 18, with cisterns for pump-water, and a sewer in each.

Debtors and criminals are here very properly kept separate. The former have no court-yard, but are indulged by the Keeper sometimes with the use of his small garden; and the debtor was walking in it when I came there; and only one room above stairs, 12 feet by 11, and 9 feet high, adjoining to the Bridewell part, having a fire-place, and two iron-grated windows, and the sewer in one corner. The Keeper furnishes beds at one shilling *per* week each. Poor debtors are by the Town allowed one blanket, with straw laid on a wooden bedstead.

The felons' two court-yards have each two cells attached to it, of 10 feet by 7, and 9 feet high; fitted up with wooden bedsteads, loose straw, and a blanket for each prisoner; lighted and ventilated by an iron-grated window over the doors, of 36 inches by 18, and a grated aperture in each door, 6 inches by 5.

The *Bridewell* prisoners have but one room, 15 feet by 7, to which the Keeper furnishes beds at one shilling *per* week each; two sleep together.

No water accessible to these two classes. *No employment* provided; but those who are of handicraft trades may procure work for themselves, if they can.

There is no sick, or infirmary-room, in this Gaol. It is white-washed once a year. The Keeper does not remember that any debtor here ever received

received the benefit of the Lord's Act, or *Sixpences*, during the nine years he has been in office.

As no mops, brooms, or pails, are allowed to keep the Prison clean, it is no wonder that the cells are extremely offensive, for want of proper drains.

Debtors sent hither are by process issuing out of the Borough Court.

Divine Service heretofore was performed occasionally and gratuitously by the Rev. *John Stoddart;* but, that gentleman falling blind, no religious attentions have been paid to the prisoners for several years. Neither Act nor Clauses hung up.

JAMES NEILD.

To Doctor Lettsom, London.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

tenth century. So much for dissimilarity of Style; but, secondly, there happens to be a period abounding with sacred edifices; many of which, in different degrees and particulars, do most strongly resemble in Style the Church of Malmesbury, and that period is the early part of the twelfth century. Let us now return to *Document*, which records a Church at Malmesbury of the seventh Century, and which also records such dilapidations of the said Church, at the latter end of the tenth Century, as to render it highly probable, that no part of the *original* structure now exists. It is true that no written testimony remains of the erection of any Church there at the beginning of the twelfth Century; but that this omission is of no material import, is well known to all who have had occasion to search into the records of our antient religious foundations; the following particulars, however, are well known and recorded, and have been lately pointed out by an ingenious Artist, Mr. Britton; namely, that at the beginning of the 12th century, Malmesbury Abbey had a munificent and powerful Abbot, who was celebrated for the splendour and variety of his buildings; that he was nearly allied to two Ecclesiasticks, who filled, through his interest, the Sees of Lincoln and Ely; that both these Prelates greatly augmented their respective Cathedrals; and that a strong similarity in many particulars between these and Malmesbury may still be traced. These circumstances, added to what I have noticed above, will, I think, serve to shew how far *Document* may be attended to, and where we are compelled by common sense and judgment, to depart from it. In a dispute of 10 or 20 years, *Document* may be allowed to decide; in a difference of *five hundred* years, it cannot invalidate the more powerful evidence of *Style*. With much still to add, I am induced for the present to conclude, which I shall do, with requesting "Architects" attention to a little story I remember to have heard on my first going to College. There had been, it seems, a dispute among the Cambridge Divines upon that knotty point, "the sleep of the soul;" in the course of which much learning and ingenuity were displayed. At length, a certain Doctor thought fit to enter the lists, by preaching an elaborate discourse on the subject in debate, but with more zeal, it appeared, than discretion; for it was agreed on all hands, that whatever became of the controversy, *this* Doctor had proved to the general conviction, that *he* at least knew nothing of the matter.

Yours, &c. AN AMATEUR.

(To be continued.)

LETTER LXIV. ON PRISONS.

Le travail éloigne de nous trois grands maux,
L'ennui, le vice, et le besoin. VOLTAIRE.

Sambrook-court, March 23.

DURING the progress of these Letters, frequent occasions have presented of noticing the lamentable state of Bridewells and Workhouses; as a contrast, let the attention be transferred to that of the Brideweil in Warwick, where industry is encouraged, and where the product of labour is appropriated to promote its exercise. It should, indeed, be contemplated by every magistrate and overseer in the kingdom.

HERE there is applied immediate pay for the product of labour.

HERE a room is set apart for convalescents.

HERE the men are regularly shaved, and supplied with a change of clothing; and their linen washed and mended by female prisoners.

HERE the women are clothed from the *Prison manufactures*.

HERE soap and towels are allowed to all the Prisoners.

HERE medical aid is administered in sickness.

HERE warm and cold baths, boilers, and ovens are constructed, with the requisites connected with them.

HERE the Act for the Preservation of Health, and Clauses against the Use of Spirituous Liquors, are exemplarily hung up.

HERE, when the prisoner is discharged, a donation is given, according to the distance from home, and the behaviour during confinement, with the addition of suitable clothing.

HERE, indeed, there is one objection, that the chapel is too small. More frequently in these histories, the chapels have been too big; or, in other words, they have not been attended by prisoner or clergyman.

We

We may, however, hope that, as the Prisons and Bridewell are so well constituted in most respects, the place for worship may be rendered adequate to the votaries.

J. C. Lettsom.

Warwick. The County Gaol.

Gaoler, *Henry Tatnall;* salary £300. Felons pay no fees; and for the conveyance of Transports he makes a bill; garnish, abolished.

Chaplain, Rev. *Hugh Laugharne*; duty, Sunday and Friday, prayers and sermon; salary, £50. for Gaol and Bridewell.

Surgeon, Mr. *Birch;* salary, £40. for Gaol and Bridewell.

Number of Prisoners, August 19, 1809, Debtors, 11, Felons, &c. 29.

Allowance. One pound and half of bread *per* day to all descriptions of prisoners. It is sent in loaves from the bakers, and I have always found them full weight. *See Remarks.*

Remarks. At the entrance is the Turnkey's Lodge; the room over which, denominated the *Dead Room*, is so called from the executions which take place out of it. A small court-yard fronts the Gaoler's house, which is nearly in the centre of the building.

Master's-side Debtors have a court-yard 82 feet by 37; a day-room 20 feet by 16; and nine lodging-rooms about 10 feet square, for which they pay as *per* Table. Above-stairs are eighteen rooms of about the same size, and opening into passages only three feet wide.

Common-side Debtors have also a court exactly similar to the former; a day-room about 14 feet square; and three sleeping-rooms above-stairs furnished with chaff beds and two rugs each on the floor, for which they pay nothing.

Women Debtors have two rooms, the largest about 20 feet square, and the smaller 16 feet by nine, with bedding the same as the men, and allowed wood bedsteads with sacking bottoms: they have likewise a small court-yard.

Besides the stated allowance, Debtors receive from a legacy eight three-penny loaves twice a month, of which here is no memorial. It is regularly sent by Bernard Dewes, esq. of Welshbourn, in this county; who likewise gives annually one ton of coals to the Debtors, and one ton to the Felons, at Christmas. Debtors also receive donations at Christmas yearly; which amounted in 1808 to £49. 7*s.* 4½*d.*

The Chapel is so partitioned off that the sexes are out of sight of each other. All the prisoners attended Divine Service when I was here in 1803 and 1809. Below the Chapel are two work-rooms, in one of which the men weave; and eight looms were employed: in the other, the women spin, and mend and wash for the men prisoners.

The Male Felons court-yard is 96 feet by 54; and that of the females 51 feet by 21; both well supplied with hard and soft water. The men have two day-rooms on the ground-floor, each 31 feet by 19 feet 6 inches; sixteen sleeping cells, and three solitary ones, each nine feet by six, and nine feet high, with arched roofs, divided by a passage five feet wide. On the first story are twenty-eight cells of the same size, separated by a wall, and a passage on each side of five feet wide. The second, third, and fourth stories, have each the same number of cells, divided in like manner, and of the same dimensions.

On the whole, therefore, here are 103 cells; of which 24 are called *double-cells*, as being twice the size of the rest, and to receive two prisoners. Two large cells, with fire-places and glazed windows, are set apart for the sick.

The Women Felons also have on the ground-floor one day-room, of 18 feet by 14; a wash-house and two sleeping-cells; and on the upper-story two sleeping-rooms of the same size as their day-rooms; and an Infirmary room with fire-places and glazed windows.

Felons here are allowed cast-iron bedsteads, covered with wood, chaff beds, and two rugs to each. Each cell has a double door; the inner of wood, the outer iron-grated. I must observe, that if the passages numbered 3, 4, 7, and 8, on the Felons side of this Prison had circular apertures at the end, it would greatly improve the ventilation. It is intended to have a separate court-yard for young offenders with a large room, and a workshop, which is very much wanted.

Here is a room for depositing the irons, and a warm and cold bath. The Old Dungeon (a descent of 21 steps) in this Gaol, is made use of for *Deserters*;

Deserters; and adjoining to it is a subterraneous passage, through which the prisoners are brought into Court for trial.

The Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up; and the whole Prison very clean.

Formerly the Debtors in common were used to receive thirty shillings a year from the rent of a house in the town. This, I understand, was a legacy; but am told it has been discontinued for many years. No memorial of it is hung up in the Gaol.

In the Debtors' court there is a poor's box, put up by Blacket Wise, esq.* Sheriff, January 9, 1808; and on a board over it is inscribed:

Oh! ye whose hours exempt from sorrow flow, [woe!
Behold the seat of pain, and want, and
Think, while your hands th' intreated alms extend,
That what to us ye give, to God ye lend.

The County Bridewell. Gaoler, *Joseph Chaplin*; salary £80. The County pays £40. to a Turnkey.

Number of Prisoners August 19, 1809, Males 45, Females 31, six children, and a lunatick.

Allowance. One pound and a half of bread *per* day.

Remarks. The Keeper's house has his garden in front, and commands a view of the two court-yards: that for Men is 99 feet by 36; that for women 87 feet by 15; and both are well supplied with hard and soft water.

Here are likewise two courts for male and female Vagrants, about 21 feet each by 12, with a sleeping-cell in each about 10 feet square.

On the basement-story of the Men's side is a weaver's shop, containing a loom, six spinning-wheels, a carding-machine, and a twisting-mill; and close to it, a combing and sorting room. In another room above-stairs are seven other looms, ten spinning-wheels, a small carding-machine, and a warping-mill. On the basement-story also in a new adjoining building, are a dye-house, with stoves, and a wash-house, with a staircase at each end.

On a second and principal story is a spinning-room, extending the whole length of the building, capable of containing about thirty spinning-wheels, of which 15 were at work when I made my visit. The upper or attick-story has a room to deposit the manufactured goods, and an Infirmary for the Women.

The centre building on the basement-story has a warm and cold bath, an oven, and a boiler, with pipes to convey water from the reservoir. The principal story has two day-rooms, one for the men, the other for the women, that open into their several court-yards; and to each of which the County allow one cwt. of coals *per day* in the winter, and half a cwt. in the summer months. Likewise, a room set apart for male convalescents, to which firing is also allowed; and one solitary cell, about seven feet square.

Over these is the chamber-story, in which are the Chapel, three sleeping-cells, and a sleeping-room about 15 feet square: and on the same floor two other lodging-rooms for women, of about 16 feet by 14, and two cells seven feet square. The Gaoler supplies those prisoners who pay 1*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, with a bed, sheets, blankets, and a rug.

The attick-story, on the men's side, has a sleeping-room 30 feet by 16, with partitions on the floor; and a sick-room 16 feet by 14, furnished with wood turn-up bedsteads, chaff beds, and two rugs each. Adjoining to the latter is a small room about seven feet square, with a fire-place, to prepare and warm their victuals.

The women's side contains two rooms of 16 feet by 14 each, and a smaller, like that for the men, seven feet square.

The Chapel is partitioned off for the sexes, but is much too small for this populous and sometimes crowded Prison. The Prisoners are all required to attend Divine Service, unless prevented by sickness.

The men have their barber weekly, and clean linen once a week, which is washed and mended by women prisoners; the County allows soap and towels for all. In sickness, the Surgeon orders whatever is proper at the County expence.

The women are generally supplied with clothing from the Prison manufactures,

* This gentleman has likewise given to poor Debtors the last two winters a joint of meat, a quantity of garden-stuff, and one cwt. of coals.

factures, which is given to them when discharged.

The following document is worthy of record:

"*Various Articles manufactured in House of Correction at Warwick.*

"The combing of wool; carding ditto; spinning it; and also jerseys and linen from flax; weaving of carpets; linsey for petticoats; tammies and linen cloth; horse-girth webbing; rugs, blankets, and horse clothing.

Earnings and Rewards.

Earnings, from Jan. 1, 1808, to Jan. 1, 1809,.....	£.	319	19s. 1d.
Rewards		54	13 1

Commitments during the same period, 259.

The average number of working hands about fifty. All Prisoners who work have two-pence or three-pence in a shilling out of their earnings, which is paid them weekly.

When a prisoner is discharged, a donation is given, according to the distance from home, and behaviour during confinement: and one or two shirts or shifts, a pair of shoes or a jacket, are presented to such as have been six months imprisoned.

The Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are exemplarily hung up. The Prison whitewashed once a year, and kept very clean. Seven Prisoners only on the Sick List in 1809, when I made my last visit. JAMES NEILD.

Mr. URBAN, *April* 10.

THERE are two Letters respecting Cambridge in your last Volume, on both which I cannot help making some remarks. I was prevented sending them to you before.

Stephanus, p. 1125, begins with a comparison between Oxford and Cambridge, and, without deciding which has the preference, most unexpectedly ends with remarks on the Fellow Commoner's gown. He thinks that a greater number of students would flock to its standard, if this objection, which he calls serious, was done away. Surely this must be a very strange fancy; and I cannot think there would be a single one added to the number of students on this account. For is any one under the necessity of being admitted a Fellow Commoner? It is a distinction intended for men of fortune, (though numbers of gentlemen are admitted pensioners, which is quite a sufficiently genteel distinction,) who are supposed to be well able to afford the expence. If people (as is unfortunately in the present times too often the case) will aspire to situations and distinctions above what their circumstances can afford, and experience, as they certainly will, inconveniences from it, whom are they to blame but themselves? Antient habits and costumes, and antient usages, are not, I think, hastily to be changed, for the accommodation of such aspiring sort of people; and why are not other expences attached to Fellow Commoners mentioned as well as the gown?

I have been long conversant with Cambridge, and never before heard of this objection. He seems to know little about Cambridge, when he calls the Fellow Commoner's gown silk; and talks of allowing a small portion of gold to the purple instead of silver, which are appropriate to Fellow Commoners of Trinity. Thus much for Mr. Stephanus.

Your other Correspondent, p. 1211, begins with remarking, that his observations are founded on actual experience. I beg leave to remark likewise, that my observations, most of which are contrary to his, are founded on experience too. With respect to the situation and soil of the place, no soil is much more luxurious, and the situation, I think, is not much flatter than Oxford. The pure and invigorating air of Oxford cannot be exceeded by the pure and invigorating air of Gogmagog Hills, which meeting the softer, denser air of the Fens, (which, however, are farther distant,) form together as healthy an atmosphere as almost any place can boast of. I will here introduce my experience, and of which I have positive knowledge, that sickness and deaths at the University are exceedingly scarce and rare; which, considering the madness and folly of youth so collected together, is very remarkable, and surely very much in favour of the healthiness of the situation. Besides, since the improvements in the Fens, which have so extensively taken place of late years, there are no stagnant waters to poison the air with noxious vapours, as he may suppose formerly to have been the case, any more than there are about Oxford, which appeared to me at any rate to be equal

to

[*Extracted from the* GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for June*, 1810.]

LETTER LXV. ON PRISONS.

"Les hommes sont égaux; ce n'est point la naissance, c'est la seule vertu qui fait la difference." VOLTAIRE.

Sambrook Court, May 21.

THE following Letter contains so much useful information, and concludes with such judicious and humane reflections, as render any remarks from my pen unnecessary. Indeed when it is recollected, that my benevolent friend was recently High Sheriff of the county of Bucks, no doubt could be entertained, but that every improvement the prison of Aylesbury was capable of would be adopted, and so happily it appears to have been the result. At the same time, let it be recorded, that much is due to the laudable endeavours of the Marquis of Buckingham; for, although it may be admitted, in the sense of the motto, "All men are equal; it is not birth, it is virtue alone that makes the difference;" yet virtuous exertions, which add dignity to high descent, produce an influence proportioned to rank; and it is truly gratifying to see many characters thus adding lustre to birth; for, perhaps, in no period has benevolence been more cherished, or charitable exertions more general among the great, than at the present. They mix with the community, in extending aid to the poor, and comfort to the sick. They visit the prison-house, and meliorate the forlorn state of the incarcerated. They promote the education of the indigent; they illumine the condition of the blind; and give utterance to the deaf and dumb, whom they render intellectual beings. In these acts of beneficence Ladies of Rank co-operate, even up to the highest in the Empire. They delight to descend—I ought to say, ascend—to discharge the offices of humanity in all its ramifications, to the diffusion of happiness in all its generalities.

Whilst I venerate these active virtues, might I plead for the female prisoner, who seems to be a peculiar object of pity—pity, that adds to feminine loveliness; and were the sex to enter the mansions of the most miserable of their sex, they might reform the offender, and confirm the penitent; and how appropriate is female sympathy over female frailty!

J. C. LETTSOM.

P. S. Citizen's Letter has been received, and will be attended to.

AYLESBURY, *Buckinghamshire.*—The COUNTY GAOL and BRIDEWELL.—Gaoler, *Henry Sherriff.* Salary, for the Gaol, £140.; for the Bridewell, £30. Fees and garnish, abolished; but the Under-sheriff takes from each debtor 2*s.* 6*d.* for his *liberate.*—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Hopkins.* Duty, Prayers and a Sermon every Sunday. Salary, £50.—Surgeon, Mr. *Hayward.* Salary, £35. for all descriptions of prisoners.—Number of Prisoners, March 7, 1809, Debtors, 8; Felons, 16; Bridewell, 27.—Allowance: to debtors, and prisoners of every description, one pound and a half of the best wheaten bread every day,

day, and a pint of soup twice a week *. Convicts under sentence of transportation have the King's Allowance of 2*s.* 6*d. per* week.

Remarks. This Gaol adjoins the back part of the magnificent Shire-hall. The original construction of the buildings was faulty in the extreme; but the Marquis of Buckingham, ever attentive to the interests of this County, having humanely interfered in its prison concerns, the *loathsome dungeon* is now inaccessibly bricked up? and the Gaol has received many other, and great improvements.

There is but one court-yard for debtors, 54 feet by 26, paved with flag-stones, and a sewer in one corner; two day-rooms, with fire-places and glazed windows; the largest room 20 feet by 14.

Up-stairs are seven good bed-rooms, all *free wards*, furnished with wooden bedsteads, flock beds, a blanket, and coverlet, at the County's expence; one of the smallest rooms is set apart for women debtors. Men felons have a court-yard, 32 feet by 24, paved with flag-stones, and the sewer is in one corner. They have three day-rooms, whose average size is 16 feet by 14, with cup-boards for provisions, and benches to sit on, opening into the court. Their sleeping-cells, 16 in number, are over the well-room and straw-room, and open into lobbies, seven feet wide. Each cell is 6 feet 6 by 5 feet, furnished with a wooden bedstead, straw mattress, and one blanket, and ventilated by an iron grating in the door, 9 inches square, and another in the roof, 42 inches by 18. Here is one solitary cell, 6 feet 6 by 1 foot 9 inches, totally dark, and without ventilation, where the refractory prisoner sleeps on the floor, upon loose straw, with a blanket.

There being no stated Chapel, Divine Service is performed in the Shire-hall; and the felons ascend from the lobby into which their cells open, by a ladder of 25 steps, and 3 inches broad, to a trap-door made in the floor of the Sessions-house, 2 feet 6 by 2 feet 3, opening into the prisoners' bar, which is about 10 feet by 9; and here they sit to hear Divine Service.

The bridewell prisoners are seated on benches without the bar; debtors, on a row of benches called the Attorneys' seats; and the women are placed in a pew, on the left side of the Chair. When I attended Divine Service, January 13, 1805, thirteen criminals and four debtors received the Sacrament, which is administered four times a year. Many persons also from the Town are accustomed to attend upon this occasion; and the money collected is distributed amongst the criminals. All prisoners are required to attend Divine Service. A Chapel within the Prison, properly partitioned off, so as to exclude the classes from the sight of each other, is an accommodation much wanted. It would afford their exemplary Chaplain an opportunity of selecting occasionally, and of applying passages from Scripture the most appropriate to each class of prisoners; of admonishing the profligate, exhorting the thoughtless, and comforting the afflicted.

The *Well-room*, which is assigned for prisoners under sentence of death, is 28 feet by 13 feet 3, and 9 feet 5 inches high, with a brick floor, and small fire-place. There are in it, five well-ventilated cells, 6 feet 7 by 5 feet 1; fitted up with a wooden bedstead, a straw-in-sacking bed, and two blankets each.

The *Straw-room*, for deserters, 20 feet 6 by 15 feet 4, has a barrack-bed the whole length of the room, and raised two feet from the floor, with loose straw and a blanket for bedding; it opens into a lobby 20 feet by 11, in which there is a cell for

* The allowance made to the Sheriff of Bucks, upon passing his accounts annually in the Court of Exchequer, of 2*s.* 6*d. per* week, for the maintainance of capital convicts, and convicts at the Assizes for transportable offences, detained in the Gaol, is issued under an Order from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Under-sheriff makes out an account, containing the name of the Convict, the time when convicted, and the number of weeks from that period till the Convict is sent of, or till the end of the Sheriffalty, if the Convict so long remains in his custody. And, as the County supports the Convict with bread and clothing, the Under-sheriff pays, from time to time, to the County Treasurer, the sums so allowed in his Bill of Cravings, in aid of that expenditure.

one

ıe prisoner, of 6 feet 6 by 5 feet, and ljoins the Well-room.

Female felons are confined in the 'omen's Bridewell, and have a court-ırd, 28 feet by 24, in which there is sewer; a day-room, 20 feet by 10; wash-house, 17 feet by 12, with a stern, copper, and fire-place; and sleeping-room, 13 feet by 12, all hich have boarded floors. There 'e also five sleeping-cells, 7 feet by feet 6, with a wooden bedstead, raw, and one blanket each.

The Men's Bridewell has a court-ard, 47 feet by 29, and a sewer; a ırge work-room on the ground-floor, 3 feet by 12; and a day-room, 19 eet 9 by 15 feet 6. On the first floor re five sleeping-cells, each 7 feet y 6 feet 6, with iron-grated win-ows and inside shutters, a bedstead or two persons, loose straw, and a lanket. The second story has 11 ells of the same dimensions, and fur-ished in the same manner; and here one dark cell for the refractory, 7 eet by 3 feet 6, ventilated by an aper-ure, 6 inches by 5.

The Infirmary is a neat detached uilding, and consists of two large ooms on the ground-floor, 24 feet by 8, and paved with brick; in one of hem is an excellent mill, with a pair of mill-stones for grinding corn, and n apparatus for dressing the flour. Above are two rooms of the same ize, with boarded floors, for the sick, nd glazed large windows. A kit-hen, 16 feet by 12 feet 9; a room 'or the nurse of nearly the same size, vith suitable conveniences for sick ersons. A liberal supply of coals is llowed to the day-rooms, from the 16th of October to the 16th of April; ut if the weather be very severe, the time is extended by the conside-rate Magistrates.

Books are kept in the Prison, in which the visiting Magistrates, Chap-lain, and Surgeon, enter their re-spective Reports. Water is supplied from a rivulet at the bottom of the Keeper's garden, by means of a forcing-pump, worked by the prisoners.

The Gaol is supplied with religious books; and poor prisoners, when dis-charged, have money given them, according to their distance from home, for immediate sustenance, and to prevent the great temptation of committing a crime for that pur-pose.

Some years ago, the prisoners were employed by the Gaoler, in shops erected by him for that purpose, in sawing stone and timber, sifting sand, &c.; but this has been discontinued, and now a trifling quantity of hemp, beat once or twice in a month, is the only employment.

At the Summer Assizes, prisoners are removed from hence to Bucking-ham. The following memorial of a legacy is hung up in the Church, and the donation regularly paid: "Wil-liam Findall, in the year 1604, gave £6. 13*s.* 4*d.* to be paid on Midlent Sunday annually, into the hands of the Churchwardens of the parish of Aylesbury for the time being, for ever, out of Summer-Leys, in the parish of Weston-Turville, for the following purposes, *viz.*:

	£.	s.	d.
To the Poor of Weston-Tur-ville.....	0	6	8
To the Prisoners in Ayles-bury Gaol.....	0	13	4
To a Scavenger, to keep the church-ways clean.....	0	13	4

The remainder (after deducting 15*s.* 6*d.* for the *Land-Tax*) is distributed to the widows and distressed poor of the parish of Aylesbury."

There are likewise other donations, which ought to be recorded; *viz.* the Earl of Chesterfield gives, every Christmas, two pounds of beef, and one shilling in money, to each pri-soner. It is distributed by Mr. Curry, his Lordship's Steward, at Eythorp in the county of Bucks.

The Rev. Mr. Hopkins, for the 30 years during his officiating as Chaplain, has given to the prisoners, every Christmas, one guinea; which is equally distributed amongst them by the Gaoler. The Act for Pre-servation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are here conspicuously hung up.

My dear Friend,

It is a fortunate circumstance, when a prison, ill-constructed for every humane purpose, attracts the notice and attentions of Power and Bene-volence, as is the case with the one I have just described. Not only *Fees* and *Garnish* are abolished; but com-fortable bedding is afforded *gratui-tously* to the confined Debtor; and that punishment, which the Law or-dains equally to Vice, to Folly, or Mis-fortune, is *here* meted out in mercy.

The

The same tenderness is extended to the Criminal, who, on discharge, has no temptation, by immediate want of sustenance, to commit any predatory act; and the poor condemned wretch no longer passes his few remaining days in a *loathsome dungeon*, to be then dragged through the town in a cart to execution, at some distance, to the preposterous gratification of unfeeling curiosity; and to the disgrace of civilized society; but an occasional platform, for the awful business of executions, is fixed in front of the County Hall; and the last comforts are administered to the unhappy sufferer, previous to his public exposure and punishment.

Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXVI. ON PRISONS.

[*Extracted from the* GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for August*, 1810.]

" Can I forget the generous few,
Who, touch'd with human woe, redressive sought
Into the horrors of the gloomy jail?
Unpiti'd and unheard, where misery moans;
Where sickness pines"—

THOMSON, *Winter.*

Sambrook Court, Aug. 15.

FROM Howard's History of Prisons, he visited those of Exeter in 1775, 1779, 1783, and 1787; and although he gives an unfavourable account of the state of them, he acknowledges the attention with which he was received, and notices a prevalent disposition to promote their improvement, for which indeed there was much occasion; for he observes, that he "found the *men together* encouraging and confirming one another in wickedness, and the women obliged to associate with them in the daytime."

On his visit 1787, probably his last, he notices, that an elegant Shire-hall is now finished; and hopes "that the gentlemen will turn their thoughts to this crowded, offensive, and destructive Gaol (High Gaol)."

The Coadjutor of Howard, my friend Neild, visited the prisons of Exeter in 1796 and 1803. See Letters L. and LI. vol. LXXVIII. p. 412. 502. In the first, he describes the High Gaol for felons with approbation, but not the others, as appears by Letter LI. "I understand," he adds, "that a new Bridewell on a very good plan, adjoining to the High Gaol, is now in building, so that this miserable place of confinement is likely to be soon discontinued."

There is a pleasure in tracing the progress of virtuous exertion; and that gratification is still more heightened, when it is crowned with ample success, whilst the name of Milford will be associated with the names of Howard and Neild.

J. C. LETTSOM.

EXETER, *Devonshire.*—The COUNTY HOUSE of CORRECTION—Keeper, *William Ford.* Salary, £150.; and a considerable portion of the Prisoners' earnings.—Chaplain, Rev. *Edw. Chave:* who is also Chaplain to the Gaol, and to the Magistrates at their Quarter Sessions. Duty; on Thursday, Prayers; on Sunday, Prayers and a Sermon. Salary, for the whole duty, £126. 10*s.*—Surgeon, Mr. *Benjamin Walker.* Salary, for the Gaol and House of Correction, £50. —Number of Prisoners, June 21, 1810, 68: every one of whom is employed in some kind of labour. Allowance: to each, twenty-two ounces of good wheaten Bread *per* day.

REMARKS. This extensive and noble Structure, now completed, is equally admired for the solidity of its construction, the excellence of its masonry, and its handsome appearance, which will remain a lasting honour to the County of Devon. It stands on somewhat more than an acre and a half of ground, and is situate in a field, on a fine eminence adjoining

adjoining to the County Gaol. Its foundation was laid near three years since; and underneath is placed a tin plate, with the following inscription:

"The Foundation Stone of this House of Correction was laid by Samuel Frederick Milford, Esq. Chairman of a Committee of Magistrates of the County of Devon, in the Presence of the said Committee, on the 22d Day of August, in the Year 1807.

"Geo. Moneypenny, *Architect.*"

The Prison is encircled by a boundary wall, twenty-two feet high; in the front of which is the Keeper's lodge, a handsome stone building, rendered very conspicuous by a noble gate of entrance, sixteen feet high, and eight feet wide; adorned with rustic cinctures and arch-stones of uncommon grandeur, adopted from a design of the Earl of Burlington, as executed in the flanks of Burlington House, Piccadilly. Above the gate is a stone cornice, crowned with a tablet, on which is inscribed:

"The House of Correction
for the County of Devon;
Erected in the Year 1809."

On passing the lodge, in which are the turnkey's apartments, amply fitted up with every accommodation, a spacious flag-stone pavement leads through a neat shrubbery to the keeper's house, an octagon building, situate in the centre of the Prison; on the ground-floor of which are a Committee-room for the Magistrates, a parlour for the keeper, an office-room, and a kitchen; and underneath, in the basement story, are large vaulted apartments for domestic purposes.

The *House of Correction* consists of three wings, detached from the keeper's house by an area twelve feet wide; each wing containing two Prisons totally distinct, so that there are six divisions for as many classes of Prisoners, with a spacious court-yard appropriated to each, surrounded by wrought-iron railing, six feet high, which prevents access to the boundary-wall, and preserves a free communication of 12 feet in breadth betwixt the wall and the court-yards.

The entrances to all the court-yards and prison apartments open from the area round the keeper's house, through wrought-iron grated gates opposite the several windows of his apartments.

There are also iron-grated apertures in the arcades of the ground-floor, which open into the area; so that the whole Prison is completely inspected, and the different classes attended to, without the necessity of passing or entering the court-yards; the keeper from the windows of his own dwelling having a view into the airing grounds and workshops of all the divisions.

In each court-yard, on the ground-floor, are spacious vaulted arcades, fitted up as *work-shops for light employment;* and in which a number of prisoners are occupied in weaving, picking, and sorting wool, beating hemp, cutting bark, &c. Adjoining to the arcade in each division, is a day-room, lighted by two large sash windows, and fitted up with a patent kitchen stove, which answers every purpose of domestic cookery. Between the stone piers that support the vaulted cieling of the day-rooms, are wooden dressers; and benches of wood are placed round the rooms. The prisoners have access to the day-rooms only during their meals, and for one hour previously to their being locked up.

On the first floor of each division, to which the ascent is by stone staircases, are six cells, and on the second floor six others, making in all seventy-two; each seven feet by ten, and ten feet six inches high to the crown of the arch; lighted and ventilated by iron-grated apertures over the doors, of two feet six inches by one foot, without glass. Each cell is fitted up with one, and some with two wooden bedsteads, in the form of those used in the Royal Hospital at Haslar, to be used in case of necessity. All the cells open into spacious and lofty arcades, guarded by iron rails; and thus a free circulation of air is preserved, which cannot fail to render this Prison always more healthful than it could be with close confined passages, into which the cells and rooms of other Prisons too generally open. The floors of all the cells and arcades are paved with large flag-stones, and the cell-doors lined with iron-plates.

On the upper floor, at the back of the right and left wing, are two rooms, each thirteen feet six inches by ten feet, and ten feet six inches high, to the crown of the arch, set apart for faulty apprentices. These rooms are lighted by sash windows,

and

and have a fire-place in each; the floors are paved with flag-stones, and each room is fitted up with wooden bedsteads, in like manner as the cells.

On the first floor of the keeper's house is *the Chapel*, an irregular octagon, 38 feet in diameter, and 14 feet high; lighted by eight large sash windows, and neatly divided by framed partition pews, which are so heightened by crimson blinds, as to prevent the classes seeing each other. The prisoners have a communication with the Chapel, from the first floor of the arcades, into the different divisions set apart for each class of prisoners, where they enter and return, without mixing with, or being in sight of each other.

This Prison is supplied with fine water from a reservoir (placed on an arcade in the area between the back wing of the Prison and the Keeper's house) which is filled from a well underneath by an Hydraulic pump of excellent contrivance, that is worked by the prisoners every morning. From the reservoir pipes are laid into all the day-rooms of the Prison, the turnkey's lodge, and the kitchen of the keeper's house; in each of which rooms, eight in number, is fixed a stone trough, with a pipe and cock.

The sewers of this Prison are judiciously placed at the ends of the different wings: they are spacious, lofty, well ventilated, and the vaults are 30 feet deep.

All the areas and walks round the Prison, and the arcades and day-rooms, are paved with large flag-stones, and the six court-yards with fine gravel. The roofs of the whole building are so constructed as to shelter the walls and the foot-paths round the Prison in wet weather. They project five feet beyond the walls, and the soffit of the projection is relieved by cantilivers, in the manner of the early Grecian Temples; of which the Church of St. Paul, Covent Garden, is an example.

At the back of the Prison, and communicating therewith, is a spacious work-yard, in which are some extensive working-shops, for the purpose of more laborious employment than is carried on immediately within the Prison; such as hewing and polishing stone, sawing timber, cutting bark, &c. In this work-yard are two sewers, and a pump which affords a supply of very fine water.

It is in contemplation to erect an Hospital for the use of the Gaol and Bridewell; which will be a detached building, and contain airy wards for male and female invalids, with hot and cold Baths.

The Rules and Regulations for the Government of this Prison are excellent: their principal tendency is to enforce Cleanliness, Morality, and Habits of Industry. The greatest stress is also laid on the constant Separation of the Prisoners into distinct Classes, arranged according to the respective nature of their offences; so that the more criminal may no longer corrupt those who have been committed for slight offences, and thus render them far more depraved, than before their imprisonment; which was inevitably the case in the Old Bridewell.

My dear Friend,

The Prison I have just described, will long remain a monument of humanity and attention to the health and morals of Prisoners.

The spirited exertions of that active and excellent Magistrate Mr. Milford in this laborious work, I see deservedly recorded by public thanks.

The plan laid down by the skilful Architect has not *here* been narrowed by ill-timed parsimony. It exhibits distribution, and conveniences for employment almost without its equal.

I anticipate the pleasure the worthy Magistrates will receive in improving the morals of the lower classes of people, and by the punishment of early transgression, prevent its increase.

Laziness and evil associations prepare the mind for the commission of the worst of crimes; but *here* all prisoners not in a state of absolute debility, have employment suited to all gradations of strength, skill, and capacity.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

James Neild.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street London.

LETTER LXVII. ON PRISONS.

[*Extracted from the* GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for October*, 1810.]

"Forsan miseros meliora sequentur."
VIRGIL.

Sambrook Court, Sept. 15.

I AM not disposed to animadvert upon the miserable state of the Gaol at Portsmouth, as a new one is constructing, if not completed; and we may hope, agreeable to the motto, "perhaps a better fate awaits on the afflicted."

The Bridewells, or Houses of Correction at Gosport and Southampton, appear, like many others described in these Essays, as nurseries for vice, where idleness and irreligion are protected; and where the ignorant, uninformed objects of confinement are thus prepared to wander into the road that leads to Botany Bay and the gallows.

J. C. LETTSOM.

PORTSMOUTH. Gaoler, *Edward Hunt*, Serjeant at Mace; Salary, £80. Fees; Debtors, 9*s*. 6*d*. Felons, &c. 15*s*. 10*d*. Three shillings and sixpence of which is paid to the Town Clerk. Chaplain, none. Surgeon, when wanted, from the parish. Number of Prisoners, Sept. 18, 1807: Debtors, 2; Felons, 12; Misdemeanors, 23; Total, 37. Allowance; to Debtors who are Paupers, Felons, and Misdemeanors, a three-penny loaf *per* day, which I examined and found to weigh 17½ oz. Also every Wednesday, one pound of meat and vegetables; and seven pence in money *per* week, called "Prize-money."

The Keeper receives from the borough 3*s*. 6*d*. a week, for the support of each prisoner; and out of it furnishes to them the above articles, with a fire to each day-room.

REMARKS. This wretched Gaol has but one small court-yard, of 45 feet by 15, for prisoners of all descriptions; so that at my visit in 1802, I found the five debtors (of whom four were women) the 20 felons, and 12 committed for misdemeanors, all promiscuously mixed together!

The debtor's ward, or day-room, opens into the court-yard, and is 17 feet by 9 feet 6. Above stairs are two sleeping rooms; one of them, 12 feet square, for the female debtors; the other for female felons, 21 feet by 12, supplied with barrack bedsteads; also a small room called the *Dungeon*. To poor debtors and felons the Corporation allows a straw-in-sacking bed, and a rug each.

In the keeper's house there are five rooms furnished with beds, for which those debtors and felons who can afford it, pay him each sixpence *per* night.

The men felons' sleeping room in the gaol part, of 21 feet square, had just been fumigated with vinegar, when I was there in 1802, a very necessary precaution in so crowded a place of confinement. The rooms that opened into the court-yard were black and dirty, being seldom white-washed.

washed. Act and Clauses were both hung up.

In my wide perambulations, I have frequently met with those who once moved in the highest circles of gaiety and affluence, reduced within the power of a remorseless creditor. In this prison (and I wish I could say it was the only one) the *unfortunate* shares a common fate with the infamous. A new gaol was greatly wanted; and is now (1808) nearly finished.

Gosport, *Hampshire.* The Bridewell. Keeper, *William Barber.* Salary, £52. 10*s.* Fees, 6*s.* 8*d.* No Chaplain, nor any religious attention. Surgeon, *Mr. Harper*, on application to the Magistrates. Number of Prisoners, Sept. 18, 1807, 29. Allowance 17½ oz. of best wheaten bread *per* day, sent in loaves from the baker's, and which I found to be full weight.

Remarks. Here are two court-yards; one for the men prisoners, 30 feet sqaare, the other for the women, about 12 feet square. They are separated from each other by a single wooden palisade fence only, and thus exposed to continual intercourse, which might easily be prevented.

The men's day-room opens into their court-yard, and is 20 feet by 13, with a fire-place; but to go to their lodging-room they must come into the other court-yard, assigned for the females. There are also two upper rooms, in one of which is a single sleeping cell, and a most offensive privy; the other room contains five sleeping cells, about 9 feet by 4 each, and 9 feet high, supplied with some loose straw on the boards, and a single blanket.

The women's day-room below is likewise a sleeping-room; and at my visit in 1807, had in it four crib wooden bedsteads, with a flock bed, and one blanket each, pestered with nauseous vermin; but, with the bedclothes, were then put out in the court to air; a severe reproof to the inattentive, for bestowing so little exertion to remove them. Such inconveniences as are voluntary, are culpable too.

Those prisoners who can afford it, sleep in the keeper's house, for which they pay one shilling the first night, and six-pence a night afterwards. Here is an oven to purify infected clothes, and a pump in the women's court. The keeper's house, which commands a view of both court-yards, was in a very ruinous state, as well as the floor of the prison, yet I found the whole singularly clean. No *employment* for the prisoners in this House of *Correction.* How can we expect grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles; or decency of manners from indolence and sloth, amidst evil associations! I was informed that a new prison was intended to be built.

Southampton. Gaoler, *Jeffery Truss*, Serjeant at Mace. Salary, none. Fees, Entrance, 4*s.* Discharge, 2*s.* of first action, 10*s.* the second, and every other action, and 2*s.* to the turnkey. No Table. Surgeon, when wanted, sent by the Mayor. Number of Debtors, Sept. 22, 1807, One. Allowance, six-pence a day o paupers; and a bushel of coals *per* week for the whole prison.

Remarks. This Gaol, for debtors only, is a part of the Tower, at the lower end of the town. Here is a small court-yard, 46 feet by 36, well supplied with water; it is not paved, and ducks, fowls, &c. are kept in it. Two rooms, with glazed windows, and fire-places, 16 feet by 12 each, to which the Corporation allows a wood bedstead, woollen mattress, two blankets, and a rug. A room at top of the Tower is furnished by the keepers, for which he charges 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week. Neither the Act for Preservation of Health, or the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are hung up.

Southampton. Felon's Gaol: The *Tower*, at the lower end of the town. Gaoler, *William Dymot*, a Tailor. Salary, £20. and £15. as Serjeant at Mace. Fees, none. Chaplain, none; nor Divine Service ever performed. Surgeon, *Mr. Keele.* Salary, none; makes a Bill. Number of Prisoners, Sept. 22, 1807, One. Allowance, six-pence *per* day. One fire for all. The town assigns a bushel of coals *per* week.

Remarks. A narrow slip of 34 feet by 7, is the only court-yard, with a pump, and stone sink, but frequeatly without water, especially in a dry season. Four small rooms for prisoners, each about 11 feet square, with iron-grated and glazed windows, and fire-places.

he

The town allows a wooden bedstead, with straw-in-sacking, or ticking, two blankets, and a rug, to each. No proper separation of men and women. The gaol clean. Neither the Act or Clauses hung up. Over the door is painted, "Pray remember the poor Prisoner's Box."

SOUTHAMPTON BRIDEWELL. Keeper, *Joseph Payne.* Salary, £2. and as Serjant at Mace, £15. Fees, none. Chaplain, none. Surgeons, Messrs. *Keele* and *Bernard.* Salary, none; but make a Bill. Prisoners, March 19, 1802, One. Allowance, six-pence *per* day each; and a bushel of coals weekly amongst all.

REMARKS. Consists of three rooms; *viz.* a day-room, about 15 feet square, and two sleeping-rooms, 12 feet by 9 each. No court-yard. There is one room in the keeper's house, for those who pay 4*s.* *per* week.

The Borough allows a crib-bedstead, straw-in-ticking bed, two blankets, and a rug for each. Here is no employment for the prisoners; nor a proper line of separation of the men and women. I shall now conclude, my dear Sir; and believe me your much obliged

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

[*Extracted from the* GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for November*, 1810.]

LETTER LXVIII. ON PRISONS.

"Vivere bis, vitâ posse priore frui."
MART. Epig. xxiii. 10.

ALTHOUGH new Prisons are erecting, in lieu of those described in the following Letter, it may be remarked with pleasure, that improvements in the state of Prisons very generally prevail, as well as in the management of Prisoners; and which may be, in great measure, ascribed to the labours of Howard and Neild; and, in no small degree, to the Periodical Essays which have been inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine; and by which the attention has been directed to these long neglected objects, and conviction of their importance been confirmed.

The prospect and hope of these consequences, I doubt not, stimulated these great men to enter upon their painful labours; and encouraged them to persevere, under many privations, and at the perils of health, and of existence itself. Thus, under a sublime devotion to serve their fellow creatures, have now and then appeared some luminous characters, who have even been prodigal of life, to save that of others; and realize the motto I have adopted.

"The present joys of life we doubly taste,
By looking back with pleasure to the past."

J. C. LETTSOM.

OAKHAM, *Rutlandshire*. THE COUNTY GAOL, BRIDEWELL, and TOWN GAOL. Gaoler, *George Gould*; Salary, £50. Fees, debtors and felons, 14*s*. 10*d*. each; besides which, the Under-Sheriff demands 9*s*. 2*d*. of each debtor for his *liberate!* Garnish, abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Richard Williams*; who attends Prisoners under sentence of death only, for which he receives a gratuity from the Treasurer of the county. Surgeon, *Mr. Keal*; Salary, £5. Number of Prisoners, Sept. 27, 1805: debtors, none; criminals, two. Allowance, One pound of bread *per* day, sent from the baker's.

REMARKS. This Gaol and Bridewell has the keeper's house fronting the street; and his back windows command a full view of the different court-yards. That for debtors is about 48 feet by 10, with a day-room on the ground-floor, 15 feet by 12, a fire-place, and a glazed window towards the street; and in this room they cook their provisions. Above stairs, ascending by a ladder, is a large work-room, 25 feet by 14, with a fire-place; and below are a brew-house and an oven, the late Gaoler *Sewell* being a baker. On the other side of the court-yard, up a flight of 10 stone steps, are two lodging-rooms for debtors, strongly planked with oak; in each of them two bedsteads, to which the keeper supplies bedding at 2*s*. 4*d*. *per* week a single bed, or if two sleep together, 1*s*. 6*d*. each.

Here is a free ward for poor or common side debtors, to whom the county allows a straw mat, two blankets, and a rug. No room set apart for the sick.

The

The felon's court-yard, parted off with strong wooden palisades, is about 48 feet by 12, with a pump and sewer in it; a day-room, 13 feet 9, by 9 feet 6 inches, in which is a fire-place; and two very small vaulted night-rooms, one of them 11 feet by 6 feet 2 inches; the other 8 feet by 5 feet 10 inches, having heretofore neither light nor ventilation, and the doorway of both being only 4 feet 10 inches high. The gaoler has made two apertures in the door, about 6 inches square; and in each room is a bedstead, with straw mat, two blankets, and a rug. Here is also a large work-room for felons, 25 feet by 14, with a glazed window, and aperture for ventilation. No fire-place. It has a mud floor, is very damp, and has in it four hemp blocks, and a whipping post.

The men's Bridewell is a room about 13 feet by 11, and 8 feet high, with a fire-place, a glazed window about 2 feet square, and furnished with a bedstead, straw mat, two blankets, and a rug. Their court-yard is very scanty, being 13 feet only by 5 feet 6. The women's Bridewell is nearly the same as the above; and both have a hemp block in them. The fences are open palisades; consequently, there is no proper seclusion of the sexes in this class.

Convicts under sentence of transportation have not the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d. per week.*

The Table of Fees scarcely legible. No Infirmary for any class. No bath. The Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are hung up, but not the Act for Preservation of Health.

The Gaol is *thatched;* but, as a Prison, kept very clean. The New Prison is nearly finished.

Plymouth. The Town Gaol. Gaolers, *Thomas Tatam*, *George Pardon*, *Thomas Towton*, Serjeants at Mace; Salary, £15. each *per annum.* Fees, debtors, on arrest 15*s.*; on discharge 15*s.* 4*d.* No Table. Conveyance of transports paid according to the expence incurred. Chaplain, none; or any religious attentions whatever. Surgeon, *Mr. Richardson;* makes a bill. Number of Prisoners, Oct. 10, 1806: debtors none; felons, &c. nine. Allowance, debtors a three-penny loaf *per* day, upon petition as paupers; weight in Oct. 1806, 1lb. 5 oz.; felons and other criminals, the same.

Remarks. This Gaol adjoins to, and is partly under the Guild or Town Hall. A door from hence opens into it, through which the prisoners are brought into Court for trial, by a flight of 17 steps.

Here are three rooms on an upper story, for debtors, with a *fire-place in each;* but *no firing* is allowed: their accommodation is straw-in-sacking on crib-bedsteads, one blanket, and two rugs. They have also the use of the attic story, which is 19 feet by 12, and 7 feet high; and likewise of the flat roof, 21 feet by 12, to walk on, and take the air. It is carefully enclosed by a wall 14 feet high, and topped with a wooden *chevaux-de-frize.*

Below, on the ground-floor, are three cells for felons, of 9 feet by 5, with arched roofs, and two iron-grated and opposite windows; one of which looks towards the Corn-market, the other into a lobby or passage, 3 feet wide, which has a grated window, opening to *Bowl Hill.* The next story has two cells, about 12 feet by 10, and 7 feet high: and the story above this is called the *Women's Gaol*, containing two rooms, with boarded floors, glazed windows, and in each a fire-place; yet at the time of my visit, the three wretched prisoners were put together in *one* of the rooms, although one of them had a young child, another had the itch, and the third said that the straw of her bed (the only bedding they are allowed) had not been changed in seven months; it was, indeed, literally worn to dust.

The prisoners hold a constant communication with the street; and by letting down a hat or a cannister, receive the casual charity of passengers, in money, &c.

The whole Prison is dirty in the extreme; the lowermost cells were filthy beyond conception, with urine and excrement. The gaolers live distant from their charge, to which they can hardly pay more than a divided attention, whose effects are but too glaring. Here is no day-room, no court-yard; and the Gaol is but ill supplied with water. No firing.

The

The respectable Mayor of Plymouth politely accompanied me; and from him I learned "that it was in contemplation to build a *New Prison*." No employment provided. The Act and Clauses are both hung up.

Plymouth Dock Gaol. Gaoler, *Hugh Tregonan*; no Salary: he lives at a distance, and keeps a public-house. Fees, none. Surgeon, from the poor-house when wanted. Number of Prisoners, Oct. 9, 1803, nine; and the same day in 1806, only one. Allowance, a pound of bread, milk porridge, or broth, as at the work-house.

Remarks. This Prison is under a room where the Petty Sessions are held, and adjoins the poor-house. It has four cells on the ground-floor, 10 feet 8 by 9 feet 6, with arched roofs. Two of them have crib bedsteads, with straw, and open into a passage 4 feet 6 inches wide; the other two have straw on the floor only to sleep on, and open into a passage 6 feet 10 inches wide; the only light or ventilation they receive is through a wicket in the door, 9 inches by 7. No court-yard. No sewer. Water is not accessible.

The adjacent poor-house is remarkably clean; there is a spacious court-yard. The children healthy, well attended to, and well instructed.

I am, with cordial esteem and regard, dear Sir, yours truly

James Neild.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

[*Extracted from the* GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for December*, 1810.]

LETTER LXIX. ON PRISONS.

O

"When shall these scalding fountains
cease to flow?
How long will life sustain this load of woe?
Why glows the morn? Roll back thou
source of light,
And feed my sorrows with eternal night!"
GAY'S *Dione.*

WHAT a contrast of passions does man exhibit in his different relations! In his circle of acquaintance, happy in enjoyments which entail no cares, his feelings are improved by social intercourse, and his sympathies enlarged by humanity: public or domestic distress excites his compassion, and it extends even to the sufferings of the Brute creation.

View the contrast! He tears a fellow-creature, the victim of his anger, from friends, and from every domestic comfort; plunges him into a loathsome dungeon, and almost deprives him of light, air, and sustenance! without fuel to dry the damp chamber of misery, or medicine to alleviate the pangs of disease!

I entreat the Readers of the Gentleman's Magazine to peruse the subsequent letter with attention. Here they will find the Soldier, who may have devoted his life to maintain the freedom of his country, and the security of his fellow-citizens in their domestic comforts and Constitutional freedom, himself without protection, and deprived of personal liberty; left to pine in darkness, under the pressure of every want that can embitter the mental feelings, and debilitate the bodily constitution, of a human being.

Here a Prelate, who was wont to teach, by example and precept, the amities of the Gospel, plunged into this noisome dungeon, acquired an incurable disease, for which a retribution on this side the grave could never be afforded.

Whilst we hear with horror the narratives of foreign cruelties, is it not time to think of our own? and now, that they are brought to light, can a free and humane nation consign them to oblivion? My honoured friend, indeed, entertains a hope, "that these may excite the attention of some Member of the British Legislature." That this hope may be realized, to the credit of the Nation, and the succour of many miserable individuals, is the wish of

J. C. LETTSOM.

CASTLE-TOWN; *Isle of Man.* CASTLE RUSHEN GAOL. Governor of the Isle, His Grace the DUKE OF ATHOL. Lieutenant Governor, and Keeper of the Castle, *Cornelius Smelt*, Lieut.-colonel in the Army. Gaoler, *John Fitzsimmons*, Head Borough of Castle-Town; heretofore a private (2d battalion) of the Manx fencibles in Ireland; and now keeps a public house in the town, together with a farm.

farm. Salary, £50. British, besides perquisites. Turnkey, *Wm. Quayle;* Salary, £20. Constables, fifteen, at £10. each *per annum;* one of whom is in daily attendance on the Gaol: and besides, are five centinels, on guard night and day. Number of Prisoners, Nov. 10, 1810, Debtors, 9; Felons, &c. 0. Allowance, none, nor any medical assistance in case of sickness. *Water inaccessible,* but as brought in by the constable, or other attendant, of the day.

Remarks. Castle-Town, in the Isle of Man, is divided into two districts, by a small creek, which opens into a rocky and dangerous bay. In the centre of the town stands Castle Rushen, which overlooks the country for many miles, and was built in the year 960, by Guttred, a Prince of the Danish line, who lies buried within its walls. Founded on a rock, it presents the appearance of much strength; and, previous to the introduction of artillery, must have been impregnable by any force that could assail it. In figure it is irregular, and thought to resemble Elsineur. A stone glacis surrounds it on all sides. It still continues to brave the rude injuries of time, and arrests attention, as a majestic and formidable object. The early Kings of this island are said to have resided here, in that barbarous pomp, which alone could distinguish them in so remote a period.

A packet sails hither every Monday from Whitehaven, with the Government Mails, and coal-vessels daily. Several passage vessels also set out weekly from Liverpool, which are large in size, and provided with excellent accommodations.

That there should have existed, and perhaps for centuries, a *Prison for Debtors,* in so remote a part of His Majesty's British dominions, I had no intelligence whatever, till it was communicated to me by two very interesting letters, dated Aug. 20, and Nov. 10, 1810, from a gentleman, formerly a Lieutenant-colonel of Dragoons; and, at the time of writing, an imprisoned Debtor in Castle Rushen.

Whilst I regret that want of knowledge which has hitherto prevented my visiting this lonesome Prison, of which I have been favoured with a drawing, I cannot convey to my Readers a better idea of it, than must arise from transcribing a part of the letters in question.

"Castle Rushen," says my unknown Correspondent, "was built upwards of 900 years ago, and contains only three inhabitable rooms, in which Felons and Debtors are promiscuously confined. Here *no Insolvent Act* hath ever reached; neither have the laws of this Island ever provided any mode of relief for the honest, though unfortunate debtor.

"After a debtor has given up all his effects, there is not any public provision of food, beds, fuel, or medicine, for persons confined in this place. Many of them, therefore, suffer the severest consequences of want and wretchedness; and, as there is no *parochial support* afforded to their *wives* and *families,* they are reduced to the greatest distress, although formerly enjoying comfort and respectability. Strange also as it may appear, *no subscription* was ever known to have been entered into throughout any part of this island, for the relief of the unfortunate. For, as the indigenous Manx are not *liable to imprisonment for debt,* their feelings seldom are 'tremblingly alive' to the miseries of an incarcerated stranger."

My mournful Correspondent mentions, as his fellow prisoners, the descendant of a celebrated Antiquary, and formerly M. P. for H———, who has been confined there for four years; the Rev. Mr. M———, a vicar in Queen's County, 18 months; and Major H. formerly M. P. for B. "This gentleman," he adds, "was released, in consequence of the non-payment to him of the *Manx-groat per* day; and yet, after a lapse of eight months, was put into prison again *for the same debt.*"

The writer thus concludes his first melancholy letter: "The darkness of the room I sit in, must apologize for the badness of my writing; the state of my mind, for the incoherence of my letter; and my poverty, for *this paper.*"

The court-yard of this prison is a part of the old fossé (the ditch or moat round it) which formerly was filled by the tide; and the water kept in, or let out, as might be necessary for the defence or accommodation of the inner Castle. It is, of course, exceedingly damp; surrounded also by

by high walls; and seldom does the sun shine upon any part of it. The privy attached to it is not sunk, as propriety might have suggested; it is dirty beyond belief; and, in the summer months (for some prisoners have spent all the seasons here) it eructs such, almost pestilential, effluvia, as to render the court-yard intolerable. The *pump* also, ordained to supply the essential beverage of life, is out of order; and, though long ago the prisoners have prayed to have it mended, this grand desideratum of comfort is still left in the same useless state. Many unpleasant instances, both of want and vexation, have occurred, from the negligence of supplying the prisoners with a regular quota of *water*. Complaints have frequently been made on this head, which, it is hoped, may never again be rendered necessary.

It has been doubted by Manx gentlemen of the Law, whether, and how far, English Acts of Parliament can bind this Island, except in matters of *revenue*. Is it thus then that *pecuniæ omnia obediunt!* or can it be suffered, that *imperium in imperio* shall thus prevail? Such a decision it is the interest of no one to desire; for to all it must prove injurious in some degree, and could benefit no honest man. We are told, that such laws of innovation, even if originating from England, ought to be first promulged on the *Tynwald Hill*, a consecrated spot, in the centre and heart of the Isle of Man, where all new Laws are necessarily proclaimed. It may be so, locally; but, surely, this reasoning cannot reach to militate against the common law of humanity.

The apartments for confinement in this gaol consist of three principal rooms. One of them is about 20 feet by 14, with a single window in it, which does not open, but has two wooden panes made occasionally to be taken out, and thus let in air. It was not long since occupied by 14, but now by *three* prisoners only.

The second room is 14 feet by 12, having two Gothic windows, 8 inches each in breadth, with an iron bar through the centre. Here, recently, were nine inhabitants; but now only *two*.

The third room is of the same dimensions; and lighted (if *light* it may be called) by two windows like the above. It lately held, of prisoners, 13 in number; but now only *three;* besides an infant boy, son of *a man and his wife*, who (so strangely is the Law here constructed) are both of them confined in this gaol *for the same debt!*

On the walls is a small apartment, about 8 feet square, said to be a Danish watch-turret, and in which *one* gentleman is detained.

Of the above four rooms, it may seem almost difficult to believe, though true, that not one has been white-washed in the last three years; and when they were so refreshed, for the most obvious reasons, it was done at the expence of the prisoners themselves, who inhabited them at the time.

At present, they are obliged to contribute to the expence of having a woman to clean out their respective rooms daily; to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week for the hire of a bed and bedstead; six-pence a week also for the use of a little table and a chair; and coals cost them each about 2*s.* *per* week. These articles, together with the charge for their female attendant, stand each individual (if he has it to command) about 26*s.* *per* month, exclusive of the expence for candles; and "by the badness of this writing," my Correspondent observes, "you will readily perceive, that the darkness of our regions requires them."

"A mind like yours," continues he, "will feel great gratification, in averting the horrors of an approaching winter, by a supply of coals; and Mr. ————, Merchant, in Castle Town, would readily purchase them at the cheapest rate, to whatever amount in money you may be pleased to remit. From the pits of Whitehaven, coals are sold here at a comparatively reasonable price and measure; and I presume, that about six tons would last through the winter, which, it is feared, may prove exceeding hard."

"The apartments here, or rather dungeons, are very damp and cold. Mr. S——, who lately occupied the room in which I am now confined, has declared to me, 'that, had he remained another winter in it, he must have entirely lost the use of his limbs.' A supply of *Candles* also would be of the most charitable consequence."

"The

"The *iron-bedsteads*, &c. which you mention, would answer the best. If the beneficence of the donor should extend the number to *six* (or *two for each room*) it would be *impartially* benefiting the whole: and, in that case, I would advise, that some impression, or stamp, should be made upon the iron; such, for instance, as 'The Donation of * * * * * * to the Prison (or the Prisoners) of CASTLE RUSHEN GAOL.' The kind gift would thus become exclusively secured, and perpetuated to the use of the prisoners."

So very singular and unsystematic do the proceedings of this secluded Island appear, that certain arbitrary and lawless events in it occasion less surprize. The venerable Bishop Wilson, whose name here is only not adored; and by whose exemplary life and writings, the world has received, and will long continue to receive, unspeakable edification, was, on the 29th of June, 1722, together with his two Vicars-general, committed to this destructive prison of Castle Rushen, for the non-payment of a fine, which he had just reason to oppose, and which afterwards appeared to be unjust. They were kept closely immured within these dreary walls, and no persons admitted to see or converse with them.

The horrors of a prison were aggravated by the unexampled severity of the then Governor, in not permitting the Bishop's house-keeper (who was the daughter of a former Governor) to see him, or any of his servants to attend upon him during his whole confinement; nor was any friend admitted to either his Lordship or his Vicars-general. They were not treated as common prisoners, but with all the strictness of prisoners confined for High Treason. Their sole attendants were common gaolers; and even these, we are told, were instructed to *use their prisoners ill!* In this wretched gaol, were the good Bishop, and his innocently-suffering friends, confined for two months; and, at the end of that time, released, upon his Lordship's Petition to the King and Council before whom his cause was afterwards heard and determined. On the 4th of July, 1724, His Majesty in Council reversed all the proceedings of the officers in the Island, declaring them to be oppressive, arbitrary, and unjust.

From the dampness of his prison in Castle Rushen, even in a *summer season* of the year, this excellent Prelate contracted a disorder in his right hand, which disabled him, through life, from the free use of his fingers. He ever after wrote backwards, slanting towards the left, with his whole hand grasping the pen. A friend has just laid before me some autographs of Bishop Wilson (an excellent Tract on *the Visitation of the Sick*); and but too clearly do they evince the injury he must have sustained, from so vile and cruel an incarceration. The following lines upon the occasion are cited from Feltham's "Tour" of the Island in 1798 *, p. 109; and cannot but gratify a lover of Religion and Virtue:

"But, oh! the sad reverse of fate,
That neither spares the good nor great,
Not e'en can cherubs paint.
Lo, Envy! brooding o'er the scene,
Dash'd with a cloud the bright serene;
And bore to RUSHEN'S walls the persecuted Saint.

"There as immur'd the good man lay,
Awhile to Tyranny a prey,
Sate Patience, with calm eye;
And there too, Faith, who gives to flow,
O Innocence, thy robe of woe,
Oped, through the vale of tears, a vista to the sky."

My only apology for writing this long letter, is from the hope of its attracting the attention of some Member of the British Legislature, during the approaching Session of Parliament. I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

* An elegant Octavo, printed by Cruttwell of Bath, and sold by the late Mr Charles Dilly. See vol. LXIX. p. 44.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXX. ON PRISONS.

[Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for May* 1811.]

O divine Amitié, felicité parfaite;
Seul mouvement de l'âme où l'excés soit permis !*

King of PRUSSIA'S *Letters.*

Sambrook-Court, April 14.

AS Mr. Neild observes in the following Letter, that I accompanied him in his visit to the prison described, I can cordially unite in his narrative, of its excellent state and management.

Every person has probably experienced events in life, so impressive, as to afford certain fixed data in their enjoyments, which no vicissitudes obliterate, no subsequent events extinguish. Of gratifications commenced at a certain period, never to be forgotten, is that which fixed my friendship with that distinguished visitor of prisons and friend of the prisoner; and his kind acceptance of my company in the present instance, I remember with pleasure, and recall with gratitude. If I have occasionally introduced his name with encomium, it has not been with his knowledge, for he has uniformly repressed every expression of this kind whenever he has seen my letters prior to their having been committed to the press; but if ardour of feeling, or excess of expression, are admissible, it is under the influence of disinterested and sincere friendship, agreeably to the motto adopted by J. C. LETTSOM.

SURREY. THE COUNTY GAOL, and BRIDEWELL. Gaoler, *James Ives*, Salary, £300, and if the Debtor's fees should not amount to an additional £100 *per annum*, the County to make up to him the deficiency. Also, for the Bridewell, £50. For the conveyance of Transports he makes a bill, and is allowed the expence. Fees, as per Table. Garnish, abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *William Mann.* Duty, prayers and sermon on Sunday; and prayers on Tuesday and Thursday. Salary, £50. and £30. as secretary to the visiting committee. Surgeons, Messrs. *Saumarez* and *Dixon.* Salary, £75. for prisoners of every description, in the Gaol and Bridewell; and £5. for travelling charges, to report, at the Quarter Sessions, the state of the prisoners.

Number of Prisoners, 1809, April 18th: debtors, 61, felons, &c. 71, Bridewell, 37. Allowance, One pound and a half of bread *per* day, to prisoners of every description, except those debtors who receive sixpence a day from their plaintiffs.

REMARKS. This noble building does honour to the County. It is situated in an open and airy part of Horsemonger-lane, in the parish of St. Mary Newington, in the county of Surrey. The boundary wall encloses about three acres and half of ground. The Sessions house adjoins it, to which there is a communication from the prison; and a housekeeper is appointed to keep it clean, with a suitable salary, and apartments for her use.

The Gaol, which is likewise the county Bridewell, was first inhabited on the 3d of August, 1798, and has in front, the Turnkey's lodge, on the ground floor of which is a day room, another room with a cold bath; and a third is the wash-house, with an oven, &c.

* Oh divine Friendship, perfection of felicity!
Thine are the only emotions of the soul in which excess is good!

&c. Over these are four rooms, of 18 feet by 15, for the Turnkeys to sleep in; and at the top of all is a spacious lead-flat, where criminals are executed.

After passing through the lodge, an avenue paved with Yorkshire stone leads to the keeper's house, which is in the centre of the prison, and from which the several court-yards are inspected.

For master's side debtors there is a court-yard paved with flag-stone, 75 feet by 30, enclosed by handsome iron palisades, so that a thorough air is admitted; and arcades paved in the same manner, 31 feet by 26, under which to walk in wet weather. Close to these is a day-room, 27 feet by 20, with a fire-place; and they have likewise sixteen sleeping-rooms, each 14 feet 6 by 9 feet 3, with an iron grated and glazed window. For these they pay as *per* table, which is printed and stuck up on the master's side, for the inspection of all persons whatever.

Common side debtors have also a court-yard, with arcades, a day-room, and 12 sleeping-rooms, the same as those on the master's side: But they sleep in hammocks, and find their own bedding.

Women debtors have a court-yard, about 20 feet square; a day room, 18 feet square; and four sleeping-rooms, the same size as the men's, with wooden bedsteads: to which they also find their own bedding, and pay nothing.

The men felons are of four classes; each of which has a spacious court-yard, neatly paved with Yorkshire stone, and in size about 87 feet by 30, for the prisoners to take air and exercise in fine weather; or, if it be otherwise, they walk under arcades paved with flag stone; of about 48 feet by 27: also a day room for each class, 27 feet by 20, to dress their victuals in.

Each felon has a cell 8 feet 3 by 6 feet 9; with iron-grated window 4 feet by 2, a wooden inside shutter, a circular ventilator, 18 inches diameter, in the middle of each cell, a wooden inside door and an iron grated one to each. They are furnished with an elm-plank bedstead, only 22 inches wide, a flock bed, and pillow, two blankets and a rug: the bedding is shaken and rolled up, and the cells are cleaned every morning.

Here are likewise four day-rooms, with boarded floors, occasionally used for convicts under sentence of death; each about 26 feet by 18, with a fire-place, a table, and benches, and 3 windows, 6 feet by 3, iron-barred and glazed.

The women felons have also a court-yard about 70 feet by 30, with arcades, day-room, cells, furniture, and accommodations, the same as the men felons. Convicts here under sentence of transportation do not receive the King's Allowance of 2*s.* 6*d. per* week.

The lobbies of this prison are all well ventilated, and 6 feet three inches wide.

Pumps are fixed in all the court-yards; Thames water is laid on, and at the top of the four corners of the gaol is a reservoir, each containing about 800 gallons of water, supplied from a well by a forcing pump.

Here are four spacious airy rooms, each 25 feet by 16, in a detached building, set apart as infirmaries, fitted up with flock beds, blankets, pillows, and rugs; and adjoining to them are court-yards 30 feet square, for convalescents to walk in. Also two rooms for nurses, another for the surgeon, and a fourth with a warm bath.

The *Chapel* is a very neat structure, where the prisoners are seated in their different classes; and all are required to attend Divine Service who receive the county allowance.

There are in this excellent prison no less than four cold baths, one warm bath, and an oven for purifying infected or offensive clothing. Of sleeping-cells there are on the ground floor 15; first story 82; and second story 80. Total 177. Debtors committed hither from the King's Bench for any offence, pay no fees *now* whatever, as formerly was the custom.

There is in the gaol a list of Ten *Legacies* and *Donations*. Some of the charities are for debtors expressly; the others are not so distinguished; but debtors have them all. In the title of the paper it is said "The gaol was formerly called the *White Lion Prison*." The common seal of the prison is a lion rampant. One of the legacies was bequeathed by *Eleanor Gwynn*, from which are sent to this prison, once in eight weeks, sixty-five penny loaves.

Whatever money is collected in Chapel, at what are called the *condemned sermons*, is paid into the hands of the chaplain, and by him laid out for

for the benefit of the prisoners, in coals, meat, and other necessaries, at his discretion.

It once was customary for the executioner to demand, and by some means or other to procure six shillings and eight pence, from the criminal, on his way to execution. This inhuman practice was discontinued on the 16th July 1799.

Excellent rules and orders are made for the government of this gaol, which are fixed up in four different parts of it. The magistrates visit the prison in regular monthly rotation: their remarks are entered in a book; and every time the Committee meets, the surgeon also enters in his book the state of health in which he finds the prisoners.

All of them are discharged in a *morning*, after breakfast, and have from one to five shillings given them, according to their distance from home.

The Lent assizes for the county of Surrey are always held at Kingston, and during that time the prisoners of this gaol are confined at the *Stock House*, and the house of Correction. The Summer Assizes are once in two years at Guildford, and the prisoners then kept at the Bridewell there.

Every other summer they are held at Croydon, and during the time were confined, heretofore, in stables, which are now properly converted into a large room suitable for the purpose.

The Act for preservation of Health, and the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up; and the whole prison is remarkably clean.

The *Bridewell* or House of Correction, formerly situate in St. George's Fields, is now enclosed within the boundary wall of the *County Gaol*. Keeper, *John Spreadbury*. Salary £50. and a share in the prisoners' earnings, as hereafter mentioned. He is under the controul of the gaoler, but receives his Salary from the county, and the magistrates only have the power to dismiss him. Fees none.

For the men prisoners here are two spacious airy court-yards paved with Yorkshire flag-stones, about 37 feet each by 29, for exercise in fine weather, and two arcades each 27 feet by 3, paved with flag-stones. Also one large workshop of 37 feet square, for those male prisoners who are employed in picking oakum and knotting yarn. Each prisoner has a cell 8 feet 3 inches by 6 feet 9, with an iron-grated window 4 feet by 2, a wooden inside shutter, circular ventilator 18 inches diameter, double door, and bedsteads and bedding provided, taken care of, and cell cleaned every morning, the same in all respects as those in the county gaol for the felons.

The women prisoners have one spacious and airy court-yard, of about 27 feet by 23, together with a workshop, cells, bedding, &c. the same, and their employment also, as the men prisoners.

The following is an account of the receipt and net profit of the prisoners' EARNINGS, from Michaelmas 1802 to Michaelmas 1803:

	£	s	d
Earnings	121	1	1
Expences attending the same	33	9	0
	87	12	1
Deduct one third as allowance to the Superintendant	29	4	0
Nett profit to balance	58	8	1

The average number of Prisoners during the above year was 50. Of the balance, thirty pounds were laid out under the direction of the Rev. Secretary and Chaplain, in meat, coals, &c. and the remainder distributed as the visiting Committee thought proper.

	£	s	d
EARNINGS from Michaelmas 1803, to Michaelmas 1804	111	15	8
Expences attending the same	24	11	3
	87	4	5
Deduct the Superintendant one third	29	1	5
Nett profit to balance	58	3	0

During the above year the average number of prisoners was 45. Thirty pounds of the balance were, as before, laid out in coals and meat by the Rev. Secretary, and the remainder in sundry articles for their use, under the direction of the visiting Committee.

☞ For the following years to Michaelmas 1807, I have similar accounts; but the two statements here given may

may suffice, as the distribution was similar, and nearly equal to the foregoing.

Every prisoner *committed to hard labour* in this Bridewell, receives one-third of his or her earnings, the keeper one-third, and the other third goes to the county. Every other description of prisoners receives one-half of the earnings, the keeper one-quarter, and the county has the rest.

When the Sessions are held at *Ryegate*, the prisoners sent from hence are confined there generally for two days in THE CAGE, which has a strong room below, about 20 feet by 12 for the men, and above it are two rooms about 12 feet square, one for men and the other for women; they have loose straw only to sleep on.

My dear Friend,

I avail myself with pleasure of this opportunity to pay my acknowledgements to the Right Honourable Lord Leslie, to Sir Thomas Turton, Bart. M. P. for the Borough of Southwark, and to the Visiting Magistrates who did you and myself the honour to accompany us over every part of this well-regulated Gaol. The cleanliness and good order that prevail throughout it, I have not failed to notice in my publications on Prisons and imprisoned Debtors; and to it most probably may be ascribed its singular healthiness; twelve persons only having died by illness since the 3d August, 1798, when it was first inhabited, although the average number of prisoners in it is, and has been annually, from 150 to 200. I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

J. NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXI. ON PRISONS.

[Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for August* 1811.]

" Nor ever let me cease to know,
The pulse that throbs at joy or woe;
Nor let my vacant cheek be dry,
When sorrow fills a brother's eye;
Nor may the tear that frequent flows,
From private or from social woes,
E'er make this pleasing sense depart:
Ye cares. O harden not my heart!"
LANGHORNE, Hymn to Humanity.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, July* 25.

WHEN I received the subsequent account of the County Gaol of Montgomery, it was accompanied with a letter from my esteemed friend, which gave me so much gratification, that I hope he will excuse me for copying from it the following passages:

" I called on Thursday last in Sambrook Court; but, from your engagements, I had not the pleasure of seeing you: the public papers, however, would inform you, that we have succeeded in introducing a clause for the Debtors in Castle Rushen gaol.

" Since the appearance of the Remarks on it in the Gentleman's Magazine, I have received ten guineas from one gentleman, five guineas from another, and one pound from a third, for the Debtors there, which I have remitted; and, by the Manx papers sent to me, I observe other donations have been transmitted: a striking proof how much good is, and has been, produced by your very energetic strictures on the communications of

" Yours truly, JAMES NEILD "

Waving the kind, though unmerited, importance which the partiality of my unassuming friend has ascribed to my humble endeavours to extend the perusal of his interesting communications, I cannot but reflect upon the subject of his letter with the highest degree of pleasure.

The Reader may recollect that the 69th Letter on Prisons, inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for December last, was devoted to the miserable situation of the prisoners in Castle Rushen gaol, Isle of Man, in which Mr. Neild, in a pathetic and impressive manner, the impulse of animated benevolence, appeals to the publick; and concludes with " a hope of attracting the attention of some Member of the Legislature, during the approaching Session of Parliament."

This hope was realized; for, the subject having been brought forward by Mr. Horner, a clause was introduced into the Insolvent Debtors Bill, to extend its benefits to Manx, or Isle of Man. In the House of Lords it was indeed rejected, as an interference with the internal concerns of the Island, and that it ought not to pass without competent information, which, it was argued, at so advanced a period of the session (July) it was impossible to obtain. From the disposition, however, prevalent in both Houses, little doubt can remain of its adoption in the subsequent session. In the mean time, the general sentiment of the publick has been so feelingly excited by the impression of this Prison Letter, as to have afforded pecuniary aid and protection to the prisoners in the miserable dungeons of Rushen, which the Legislature, consistent with humanity and policy, may hereafter legally establish.

If

If no other instance of public good and private happiness had resulted from the persevering labours of my Friend for the space of thirty years, this alone would have been to him a consolatory reward; but his retrospect is, I am persuaded, happily relieved by witnessing a general amelioration and diminution of sublunary infelicity.

Warmed with respectful estimation of such a character, my mind is led to contemplate with delight congenial spirits; that seem to possess the beatitudes of Heaven, whilst dispensing blessings on earth; who have befriended the exile, and succoured the captive. Near a Howard and a Neild, I would hence place a Benezet *, the first who pointed to a Sharp, a Clarkson, and a Wilberforce, the horrors of Slavery. At the funeral of this Benezet it was, that the citizens of Philadelphia, in solemn procession, testified their veneration for this departed friend of the forsaken and friendless. On this occasion it was, that General Johnson, who had long served under Washington, and revered his virtues, exclaimed at the awful interment—" I would rather be Benezet in his coffin, than Washington in his presidency."

Although it had been my primary intention to have offered some remarks on Montgomery gaol, and the lunaticks it contains, the pleasing information of the happy effects of the preceding Prison Letter, in ameliorating the condition of the miserable objects incarcerated in the dungeons of Rushen, has so far absorbed my attention, and extended my reflections beyond the usual limits in which I dare to encroach upon your valuable pages, that I reluctantly pause, but not without offering for this indulgence, the acknowledgments of Yours, &c.

J. C. Lettsom.

Montgomery; *County Gaol.*—— Gaoler, *John Davies;* salary, 35*l.* Fees, *debtors* 8*s.* 4*d.* besides which the under-sheriff demands 7*s.* 6*d.* for his *liberate! Felons* pay no fees. For conveyance of transports, one shilling *per* mile. Garnish, abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Charles Williams;* salary, 20*l.*; duty, every Sunday, Prayers and Sermon; and visits every day those who are under sentence of death. Surgeon, Mr. *Jones;* for *felons only.* Salary, 8*l.* Number of prisoners, September 8th, 1803:—debtors, 3; felons, &c. 10; lunaticks, 3. Of the latter three lunaticks one was *Aaron Bywater*, committed for murder; but acquitted on the ground of insanity. He had killed a fellow-prisoner here. See *Remarks.* Allowance, sixpence *per* day each, in bread.

Remarks. This gaol is finely situated, on a rising ground. Here is one court-yard for men and women debtors, 44 feet by 32, with a sewer in it; a day-room, 14 feet square; and a small room adjoining, fitted up with a bath, and boiler.

Above stairs they have also eight good-sized rooms, three of which are *free-wards.* The county allows no bedding, except straw on the floor. The keeper furnishes beds at 1*s.* 6*d. per* week, the single bed; but 2*s.* a week, if two sleep together.

The men-felons have a small court-yard, and a day-room, with six sleeping-cells on the ground-floor, the average size about 8 feet six inches by 7 feet, and nine feet six inches high. Also up stairs two sleeping-rooms, or cells. The women-felons have likewise a small court-yard; a day-room,

* I have long endeavoured, but in vain, to procure some memoirs of this distinguished Philanthropist. In his person, I have been informed, that he was rather diminutive, and in feature somewhat dark: In society, unassuming, or retreating from notice. About one half of the day he employed in conveying instruction, as a schoolmaster, to the youths of Philadelphia; and the other portion of the day in improving the condition of Negroes, and in teaching their children the rudiments of reading and writing. The Indians, who visited Philadelphia, viewed him as their father or brother. He was so liberal in relieving the wants of others in money and clothes, that he has often been known to retire at night to his chamber, without a blanket or sheet to lie upon in bed, having forgotten that he stripped it to comfort the Indian and the slave. When his friends remonstrated with him for not making sufficient provision for his own future comforts, he was wont to say, " My scholars will take care of me if I should want."

room, with one sleeping-cell on the ground-floor, and two rooms above stairs: to all which the county allows wooden bedsteads, with straw, two blankets, and a rug.

A large room over the entrance-door of the gaol, is used as a *Chapel*, but not partitioned off, so as to keep the classes, male and female, distinct from each other.

The three lunaticks, at the time of my visit in 1803, were in the felons' court-yard. One of them seemed melancholy, and made me no reply: this man was not *tethered*. The second had shewn marks of insanity, which was assigned to me as the reason for his confinement. He was young and hale, and conversed with me so very rationally, that I was induced to examine his breast-bone, (which he shewed me), by opening his shirt-neck: it was red, and appeared to have been galled by the iron collar which encircled it, and was attached to a strong chain, about eight yards long. The next morning, after breakfasting with Mr. *Lloyd*, an active magistrate, he accompanied me back to the gaol, when the above collar was ordered to be taken off, and for this the poor young man was most warmly thankful.

The third maniac, *Aaron Bywater*, kept walking quickly about, backwards and forwards, as far as his chain-tether would permit: but there was something in his eyes so highly ferocious, that, *being alone*, I did not like to speak to him, or come within the length of his tether; bearing in mind the situation I once brought myself into at Glasgow, in the year 1802. This pitiable man I was next day informed, had been heretofore committed on a charge of murder, but was acquitted at the Great Session as being insane; and since his confinement here had killed a fellow-prisoner, who was a convict for transportation, but, having received the King's pardon, was dressing himself to leave the gaol, when Bywater came behind, struck him a violent blow, and then dispatched him.

In my late visit to Scotland I was informed that the woman lunatick in the gaol at Banff had formerly murdered one of her own children; but, afterwards recovering her senses, was permitted to return home to her husband; and after living twelve years with him, became again insane, and destroyed another of her progeny; for which she was then in confinement.

Another instance I met with at York Castle, in 1802, of a gentleman of very large fortune, (W. Medhurst, esq.) who in a fit of frenzy murdered his wife. He was tried at York in July 1800, and found insane. Soon after I saw him at the Castle in 1802, the gaoler removed him to Brooke House, Upper Clapton, under the care of Dr. Monro, where I believe he now (1811) remains.

I have dwelt the more fully on the circumstance of *Bywater*, from a clear conviction of the absurdity, the danger, and the cruelty, of admitting such unhappy objects into the association of a gaol. It is hazardous to all, and is capable of being rendered very injurious to the poor frantick, exposed, as he or she must be, to various inconveniencies. I sincerely hope this narrative may tend to do away entirely the sad practice (I might call it justly the inhuman custom) of sending maniacks to common gaols; where they have the sad chance of becoming not furiously only, but incurably mad; of endangering the keepers, and destroying all order and decorum. If they prove *simple* and *idiotic*, they but too often become the butt and sport of the unfeeling criminals around them; and thus furnish a most affecting proof, how much lower than the lowest of all created beings is MAN *devoid of reason!*

One wing in the *House of Industry* near this town might, I apprehend, be well appropriated for the comfort, the safety, and the only probable restoration of *lunaticks*.

A small room is set apart for the sick. The well was out of repair; and no water accessible.

The Rev. *Thomas Powell*, formerly chaplain to this prison, left by his will *the interest of twenty pounds*, to be laid out every winter in *coals*, for the use of the gaol prisoners.

A *Memorial* of this deserves to be *recorded*; but I did not find it so in the gaol.

MONTGOMERY *House of Correction.* Keeper, *H. Lloyd.* Salary, 12*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Fees, 2*s.* 6*d.* Garnish, not yet abolished,

lished, is *one shilling*. Surgeon, if wanted, is sent from the town. Prisoners, 8th September, 1803, two.—Allowance, fourpence a day, in bread.

REMARKS. There is only one court-yard for all description of prisoners; with a dungeon, 13 feet by 9 feet three inches, to which the descent is by nine steps, and within it a whipping-post.

On the ground-floor are two middle-sized rooms, with four wooden bedsteads, and loose straw. Seven persons at a time had been confined in the dungeon, and as many also in the two rooms. The employment for the prisoners is spinning.

My dear Sir,

The observations you made when we visited Newgate together, on the impropriety of confining lunaticks in common gaols, are fresh in my memory.

This cruel custom has at length roused public attention, and the many asylums now building afford reasonable hope of its being done away, and no longer continued to the disgrace of a civilized country. Believe me, with esteem and regard,

Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. LETTSOM, *London.*

J. NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXII. ON PRISONS.

"Avaunt, and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold,
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes,
Which thou doth glare with." *Macbeth*, Act. 3, Sc. 5.

(Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, *for November.)*

So may the native of Manks exclaim with awful reflection, on the imprisonment, and final emancipation, by premature death, of an unfortunate British officer, from the loathsome dungeons of Castle Rushen. After the infliction of severity on a living fellow creature, there seems to be a latent principle of sensibility in the human breast, to feel for departed worth; and to sympathize with those whose accumulated affliction is involved in the melancholy event; especially, when feminine and infantile infelicity claims the exercise of the decent rights of interment; which man, in his savage state, devotes to the dead corpse, even of an enemy. Achilles, in his rage to avenge the death of Patroclus, was moved to pity on the death of his avowed antagonist, and contributed to his decent and honourable interment, though described by the poet, like a Manksman,

"Impiger, iracundus, inexorabilis, acer*."

For, that there still exists a race assuming even the name of Christian, exempt from the tender feelings of human nature, may be inferred from the subsequent letter and petition.

"TO JAMES NEILD, Esq.

DEAR SIR, *Isle of Man, Aug.* 21.

The unfortunate John B. Porter, whom every one, who has had the misfortune to be confined in Castle Rushen must think of with gratitude, for having drawn your attention to it, died on Monday last, the 19th. He was taken ill at three o'clock, and expired the same evening at nine. From the day the account came of the Insolvent Bill having been thrown out by the Lords, a very great alteration was visible in his looks, and his usual cheerful habit forsook him: he was only 39 years of age, and had been two years and a quarter in Castle Rushen: when he died, he was not possessed of a single shilling, and his widow was obliged to sell her bed to get him a coffin. Though the clergyman of this town took the inclosed petition to the principal inhabitants, not one shilling was raised. I did not know him before he came here; but the only crime he has committed is his having represented to you a true state of this prison. Before the Insolvent Bill was talked of here, the people would give credit to prisoners, but now they will not; even my children are insulted in the streets, as the people think a relative of mine had been active in getting the Isle of Man included in the Insolvent Bill. Want of air and exercise, has, I believe, been the cause of this poor man's death. Had I not the good fortune to have a room on the walls, though it is but eight feet upon nine, I believe I should have lost my life long ago. I have the honour to be, your most obedient most humble servant, &c."

"Died suddenly on Monday evening, 19th of August, in Castle Rushen Jail, John B. Porter, in the most distressing circumstances, leaving a wife and infant child, without one farthing to procure the smallest necessary of life.

From the humane and compassionate, his afflicted widow implores relief, so that she may be enabled to have her husband's body decently interred;

* Hor. de Art. Poet. l. 21,
Intrepid, fierce, of unforgiving rage.

terred; and to return to her friends, who live about 50 miles from Whitehaven.

To those who may feel disposed to pity her unfortunate situation, she makes this application; and any trifle they may be charitably disposed to assist her with, she will feel most grateful for, and they shall be reimbursed on her arrival in England.

Castle Rushen Jail, August 20."

Perhaps the last tribute from the pen of this unfortunate officer was paid to Mr. Neild, in the following effusion of gratitude.

"To James Neild, Esq.

Sir, *Castle Rushen, Aug.* 18.

I have the honour to inclose Mr. Harrison's account; and, in the name of those most unfortunate, to whom the House of Lords has not now even left the consolation of hope, I beg leave to return you most grateful thanks for your bounty. I have the honour to remain, Sir, yours most respectfully, J. B. Porter."

Hope, the kind consolatrix of human infelicity, inspires perseverance and firmness, under the shades of misery incident to man; and when this is annihilated, he becomes a prey to pensiveness; and, languishing under melancholy and despair, sinks into the grave.

In the innumerable instances of such catastrophe, this was fully verified in the fate of the late Lord George Gordon. Condemned to imprisonment, in Newgate, for three years, he continued cheerful, and generally healthful, under the hope of a termination of confinement. A short time previous to this long looked for period, he consulted me on the mode of living to be adopted on the renewed enjoyment of free air, which he anticipated with a cheerfulness and vivacity, which perhaps none feel so joyfully, as he who has experienced the loss of liberty: but, on the termination of his commitment, for want of proper sureties, he was again remanded to Newgate, and his confinement now appeared to him interminable. In this hopeless state, his spirits sunk, bodily debility supervened, and a petechial fever afforded an early exit to eternity.

The late bill for the relief of insolvent debtors, which a noble Lord in the House of Peers wished to pass, appears to have been founded on humanity, and it may be presumed, that he will persevere in his design to introduce it, modified. The clause in favour of the prisoners in Castle Rushen was rejected, in consequence of its late introduction, and from doubts of its involving matters of right; and it is probable that every effort would have been exerted, by the inhabitants of the Isle of Man, to prevent its insertion on the latter account, lest it might afford a plea for the subsequent introduction of taxation, from which they are in great measure exempt. It would, however, have been fortunate for the prisoners had no prospect of relief been suggested—if impracticable to afford; and that despondency, which begets despair, had not invaded the afflicted bosom of the forlorn prisoner.

The laws of the Island respecting British debtors are equally partial and cruel. The British creditor can only sue the Manksman for his property there; but the latter can, not only sue the British subject for his property in the Isle of Man, but also in Britain, and keep him in jail for life, as neither bankrupt laws nor bills of insolvency extend to this island, although the mutiny bill does; at the same time, Castle Rushen is the only prison, and contains only three rooms, for men, women, and felons; and these are occasionally so crouded, as to compel the unfortunate debtor to confinement with the felons. There is not any infirmary, or any accommodation for women whatever.

In the name of humanity, whether an unfortunate fellow creature linger in the dungeons of Castle Rushen for life or not, they are unfit for the abode of man, and disgraceful to a civilized country. A new structure, more eligible in every respect, should be immediately erected: so urgent indeed does this necessity appear to him who has already shed a portion of comfort among the prisoners of Castle Rushen, that he has offered a very liberal donation towards effecting such a structure; a circumstance which has lately come to the knowledge of J. C. Lettsom.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXIII. ON PRISONS.

"Charity is so established a virtue among them, that the distressed are accounted the creditors of the affluent, and the mere circumstance of needing assistance is considered as conferring a right to it."

Exposé statique de Tonquin, &c.

(Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for JANUARY, 1812.)

IN the centre of the Poultry, a street so called, in London, which opens to the princely residence of the Lord Mayor, and joins at its other extremity the wealthy and populous Cheapside, through which many thousands of persons, enjoying ease, liberty, and luxury, daily pass, is situated a gloomy prison, called "The Compter," whose murky apartments groan with misery; but the voice of human infelicity is not often heard; or, if heard, is disregarded, in the pursuit of more pleasing gratifications.

Whilst this Metropolis is not less distinguished for its active liberality upon every needful occasion, than for its almost inconceivable wealth; and whilst the Corporation itself has declared this Prison unfit for human confinement; it is astonishing that it should still be continued, a notorious disgrace to it, and dishonourable to its general character of beneficence. Humanity, contemplating the numerous munificent actions of this Corporation, cherishes a hope, that, in the anniversary revolution of the great City Officers, some Alderman or Sheriff may possess the patriotism and courage of effecting substantial good, to the accomplishment of which great mental exertion is requisite. But this is not the offspring of balls and festivities; and hitherto no candidate has appeared, for acquiring an honour, greater than any the City can confer, in the opinion of

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

London, January 1, 1812.

POULTRY COMPTER, *London.*

Gaoler, *Edward Kirby.* Salary, 250*l.* paid by the Court of Aldermen, and 30*l.* by the Common Council. Fees, as per table.

Garnish, 6*s.* 2*d.* called "*Ward Dues,*" paid for coals and candles to the Steward. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Davis;* duty, Sunday, prayers and sermon. See Remarks. Salary, 50*l.* and a yearly freedom of the City; voted by the Court of Aldermen, and valued at 25*l.* Surgeon, Mr. *Hodgson;* salary 100*l.* and 20*l.* for medicines, at the two Compters and Ludgate, both for debtors and felons. Number of prisoners, February 16, 1807; debtors, thirty-seven; felons, nine. Allowance, to poor debtors, felons, &c. ten ounces of bread, and one pound of potatoes, daily; also six stone of beef, (48lbs.) divided amongst them every Saturday; besides a quantity of broken victuals, collected from the different taverns and eating-houses about the Royal Exchange. For legacies, and other donations, see Remarks.

REMARKS.—Some years ago, I spoke of this *ruinous receptacle* for debtors, felons, and other criminal prisoners, as it once stood, in spite of age

age and debility. Its whole history is most singular; and it must, hereafter, become incredible, whenever its locality is considered to have been in the centre and very heart of the British Metropolis! How long before the Fire of London this Compter had been a prison, cannot easily be ascertained. There is reason, however, to believe it to be quite as antient as the other Compters. It first appears in the reign of Edward the Sixth, when the keeping of it was an office of no small consideration; for, at that period, one John Seymour, at the special recommendation of the King, had a lease granted to him of this Compter, for a term of years; and in the year 1554, the keeper of the other Compter was Robert Smarte, the City's Sword-bearer, who had the keeping thereof granted to him for life, he obeying the orders of the Court with respect to its management. In the year 1600, certain buildings and alterations of this Compter were finished, at an expence of upwards of 600*l.*; and in the year 1614, the Compter was again partially rebuilt, and repaired with oak. After the Fire of London, in the year 1666, two of the city gates, *Aldgate* and *Bishopgate*, were converted into prisons, in lieu of the two Compters, (which were both destroyed in that general conflagration) until new Compters could be built. For this purpose an order was passed in the year 1669, and executed accordingly. Since then the *Wood-street Compter* has been pulled down, and a new one erected: but the Old Poultry Compter still remains; and, until the alteration hereafter mentioned, was appropriated for the reception of prisoners, in the manner following:

For master's-side debtors, heretofore there were fifteen rooms betwixt the inner and the outer gates; for the use of which each prisoner paid as per table. For common side debtors six wards, within the inner gate; two of them on the ground-floor, called the *King's Ward*, and the *Prince's Ward;* in the former of which, November 12, 1803, were seven debtors, and in the latter, the same number.

On the first floor, or story, were the *Women's Ward*, with two debtors: the *Middle Ward* (so called, as as I conceive from its being between the Women's and the Jews' Ward) containing six debtors; and the *Jews' Ward*, in which were two Jew debtors, with a separate stair-case leading to it. ☞ This, let me pointedly observe, is the only prison I ever visited, in which persons of their persuasion were allowed to have the generous, humane, and just indulgence of being kept entirely distinct from the other prisoners: and very sincerely do I hope, that, in the projected change and improvement of this building, some similar allotment will be assigned, of a place of retirement, security, and comfort, for debtors, or others, of their peculiar description. Reason suggests the motive for such a hint; and Christian principle sanctions its adoption. It may easily be done, as no great space will be requisite.

On the second story, or floor above, were also the *Queen's Ward*, which had ten debtors; and a small room adjoining to it for the sick.

The thirty-four debtors whom I found here at my visits had ten wives and fifteen children living with them in the prison. All are allowed one rug each by the City, but are expected to provide their own beds.

To each ward there is a fire-place. In one of the rooms on the second floor, called the *Pump Room*, the debtors had the convenience of water. The court-yard here is very small, paved with flag-stones, and had water continually running through it. In the passage-court was a day-room for felons, and a small one adjoining to it for debtors: they have iron-grated windows, opposite the *public-house*, kept *within the gates of the prison;* and from which they were constantly supplied with liquor.

Men felons slept in two "*strong rooms*," planked with oak, and studded with large broad-headed nails, on boards raised about three feet from the ground; having each a rug allowed them: and up stairs was another large room for men, and one for women.

The *Chapel*, which was below, had a gallery for master's-side debtors; and the felons, and other criminals, were seated on forms or benches in the area beneath.

At the top of the whole building are spacious leads, where the master's-side debtors were occasionally allowed

LETTER LXXIII. ON PRISONS.

" Charity is so established a virtue among them, that the distressed are accounted the creditors of the affluent, and the mere circumstance of needing assistance is considered as conferring a right to it."

Exposé statique de Tonquin, &c.

(Extracted from the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for JANUARY, 1812.)

IN the centre of the Poultry, a street so called, in London, which opens to the princely residence of the Lord Mayor, and joins at its other extremity the wealthy and populous Cheapside, through which many thousands of persons, enjoying ease, liberty, and luxury, daily pass, is situated a gloomy prison, called " The Compter," whose murky apartments groan with misery; but the voice of human infelicity is not often heard; or, if heard, is disregarded, in the pursuit of more pleasing gratifications.

Whilst this Metropolis is not less distinguished for its active liberality upon every needful occasion, than for its almost inconceivable wealth; and whilst the Corporation itself has declared this Prison unfit for human confinement; it is astonishing that it should still be continued, a notorious disgrace to it, and dishonourable to its general character of beneficence. Humanity, contemplating the numerous munificent actions of this Corporation, cherishes a hope, that, in the anniversary revolution of the great City Officers, some Alderman or Sheriff may possess the patriotism and courage of effecting substantial good, to the accomplishment of which great mental exertion is requisite. But this is not the offspring of balls and festivities; and hitherto no candidate has appeared, for acquiring an honour, greater than any the City can confer, in the opinion of

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

London, January 1, 1812.

POULTRY COMPTER, *London.*

Gaoler, *Edward Kirby.* Salary, 250*l.* paid by the Court of Aldermen, and 30*l.* by the Common Council. Fees, as per table.

Garnish, 6*s.* 2*d.* called " *Ward Dues*," paid for coals and candles to the Steward. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Davis;* duty, Sunday, prayers and sermon. See Remarks. Salary, 50*l.* and a yearly freedom of the City; voted by the Court of Aldermen, and valued at 25*l.* Surgeon, Mr. *Hodgson;* salary 100*l.* and 20*l.* for medicines, at the two Compters and Ludgate, both for debtors and felons. Number of prisoners, February 16, 1807; debtors, thirty-seven; felons, nine. Allowance, to poor debtors, felons, &c. ten ounces of bread, and one pound of potatoes, daily; also six stone of beef, (48lbs.) divided amongst them every Saturday; besides a quantity of broken victuals, collected from the different taverns and eating-houses about the Royal Exchange. For legacies, and other donations, see Remarks.

REMARKS.—Some years ago, I spoke of this *ruinous receptacle* for debtors, felons, and other criminal prisoners, as it once stood, in spite of

age

age and debility. Its whole history is most singular; and it must, hereafter, become incredible, whenever its locality is considered to have been in the centre and very heart of the British Metropolis! How long before the Fire of London this Compter had been a prison, cannot easily be ascertained. There is reason, however, to believe it to be quite as antient as the other Compters. It first appears in the reign of Edward the Sixth, when the keeping of it was an office of no small consideration; for, at that period, one John Seymour, at the special recommendation of the King, had a lease granted to him of this Compter, for a term of years; and in the year 1554, the keeper of the other Compter was Robert Smarte, the City's Sword-bearer, who had the keeping thereof granted to him for life, he obeying the orders of the Court with respect to its management. In the year 1600, certain buildings and alterations of this Compter were finished, at an expence of upwards of 600*l.*; and in the year 1614, the Compter was again partially rebuilt, and repaired with oak. After the Fire of London, in the year 1666, two of the city gates, *Aldgate* and *Bishopgate*, were converted into prisons, in lieu of the two Compters, (which were both destroyed in that general conflagration) until new Compters could be built. For this purpose an order was passed in the year 1669, and executed accordingly. Since then the *Wood-street Compter* has been pulled down, and a new one erected: but the Old Poultry Compter still remains; and, until the alteration hereafter mentioned, was appropriated for the reception of prisoners, in the manner following:

For master's-side debtors, heretofore there were fifteen rooms betwixt the inner and the outer gates; for the use of which each prisoner paid as per table. For common side debtors six wards, within the inner gate; two of them on the ground-floor, called the *King's Ward*, and the *Prince's Ward*; in the former of which, November 12, 1803, were seven debtors, and in the latter, the same number.

On the first floor, or story, were the *Women's Ward*, with two debtors: the *Middle Ward* (so called, as as I conceive from its being between the Women's and the Jews' Ward) containing six debtors; and the *Jews' Ward*, in which were two Jew debtors, with a separate stair-case leading to it. ☞ This, let me pointedly observe, is the only prison I ever visited, in which persons of their persuasion were allowed to have the generous, humane, and just indulgence of being kept entirely distinct from the other prisoners: and very sincerely do I hope, that, in the projected change and improvement of this building, some similar allotment will be assigned, of a place of retirement, security, and comfort, for debtors, or others, of their peculiar description. Reason suggests the motive for such a hint; and Christian principle sanctions its adoption. It may easily be done, as no great space will be requisite.

On the second story, or floor above, were also the *Queen's Ward*, which had ten debtors; and a small room adjoining to it for the sick.

The thirty-four debtors whom I found here at my visits had ten wives and fifteen children living with them in the prison. All are allowed one rug each by the City, but are expected to provide their own beds.

To each ward there is a fire-place. In one of the rooms on the second floor, called the *Pump Room*, the debtors had the convenience of water. The court-yard here is very small, paved with flag-stones, and had water continually running through it. In the passage-court was a day-room for felons, and a small one adjoining to it for debtors: they have iron-grated windows, opposite the *public-house*, kept *within the gates of the prison*; and from which they were constantly supplied with liquor.

Men felons slept in two "*strong rooms*," planked with oak, and studded with large broad-headed nails, on boards raised about three feet from the ground; having each a rug allowed them: and up stairs was another large room for men, and one for women.

The *Chapel*, which was below, had a gallery for master's-side debtors; and the felons, and other criminals, were seated on forms or benches in the area beneath.

At the top of the whole building are spacious leads, where the master's-side debtors were occasionally allowed

allowed to take the air. The keeper, however, or turnkey, was always with them, because the adjacent houses were thought capable of furnishing the ready means for escape.

Such *was* this prison in the year 1803; but the buildings being in a very dilapidated state, and in many parts shoared up with props, it became at length so dangerous, not only to the lives of the prisoners, but of other persons resorting thither, that in July 1804, an Act passed, with a degree of uncommon expedition, suited to the supposed pressure of the occasion, for the removal of "all the debtors and prisoners here in custody to the *Giltspur-street Compter*, or to such other *safe*, *secure*, and *convenient place* within the city, as should be approved of by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons thereof in Common Council assembled." It was also ordained to "be lawful for the Sheriffs, from time to time, and until the *Poultry Compter* shall have been rebuilt, or made *secure*, and *fit*, and *commodious for the reception of prisoners*, or another Compter shall be provided, to receive, keep, and detain them in such place of intended removal." This took place in consequence, and prisoners continued to be received in the Giltspur-street Compter till the 20th of May 1805; when the very crowded state of that temporary receptacle occasioned a necessity of sending all the *night* charges to their old place of destination in the *Poultry*.

Nor was this step sufficiently adequate; for in August 1806, the Giltspur-street Compter not being found large enough to contain the *criminal prisoners* of both gaols, they likewise were re-consigned to the Poultry. This ruinous and tottering pile therefore (so long before deemed hardly tenable) has now, for above eighteen months, been made the only place of confinement for the criminals of the two Compters; and the *Chapel* of the present, being turned into a *sleeping* room, for want of space, no Divine service is performed there.

The result is, that *Giltspur-street Compter* is now wholly appropriated to the confinement of the *debtors* only belonging to both prisons, until a *New Poultry Compter* shall be provided, or the old one rendered "*safe*," for we can hardly say "*fit*," and "*commodious* for the reception of prisoners."

More than five years have now elapsed: the circumstances above narrated are matter of notoriety; yet how little, if any thing, is done!!!

The two rooms already mentioned as fronting the public-house, the one set apart for debtors, the other for felons, are at present both shut up: and the *Queen's Ward*, with nearly the whole East end of the prison, have been taken down, to prevent their falling with instant destruction on the helpless inhabitants!

Master's-side felons, or those who can pay for beds, sleep in strong rooms above stairs, to which the access is from the keeper's house.

Common-side felons have, within the wooden gate, a small court, paved with flag-stones, and a miserable room called the *Rat-hole*, with an iron-grated unglazed window; and two *dismal cells* to sleep in, upon boards raised about a yard from the floor, with a *rug or two each*, according to their number, but *no straw*. One of these cells is for four prisoners, and the other for two; above which are two other rooms, of a similar description. The Chapel, since its conversion into a dormitory, has barrack bedsteads laid on the floor.

The women felons are shut up in a dreary place below, called the *Mouse-hole*. This will hold sixteen prisoners, and is fitted up in the same manner as the above are for the men. Over it is that which was formerly the *Jews' Ward* for debtors, but now set apart for the sick.

Legacies and Donations.

Christmas quarter -	£19	2	10
Lady-day ditto - -	20	13	10
Midsummer ditto - -	15	5	7
Michaelmas ditto - -	20	17	3

Annually on the 5th of November the gift of Mrs. Margaret Dame, one quarter of beef and five dozen of penny loaves, is sent by the Ironmonger's Company.

The Drapers Company allow annually fourteen pounds for the discharge of small debts up to forty shillings each, the gift of Mr. John Kendrick.

Sheriff's court, twopence each judgment,

ment, from the Clerk of the Judgments, Mr. Higden, Curriers Hall, at Christmas.

The prisoners receive 65 penny loaves every eight weeks, the gift of *Eleanor Gwynn.*

N. B. Master's-side Debtors partake of no charity, except it be particularly ordered by the Donor.

The Public-house, within the passage leading to this Prison, is rented from the City at 30*l. per annum.* I was constantly assured it had nothing to do with the Compter, although I as constantly saw that the iron grated rooms of the Debtors and Felons were supplied from thence with Liquors; the windows of both being opposite to it. It is worthy of remark that this Public-house was shut up as soon as the Poultry prisoners were removed to Giltspur-street Compter; but was opened again immediately on their being returned hither.

From the best accounts I could extract from the books it appears, that from Jan. 1, 1800, to Jan. 1, 1807, there were *Four hundred and twenty-five* Debtors committed to this Prison from the Court of Conscience; and yet, the number of Creditors who received debt and costs, in consequence of such imprisonment, was no more than *seventy-eight!*

Scanty fuel this, for the Spirit of Litigation!

My Dear Sir, *Chelsea, Dec.* 23.

It gives me pain to publish an account of this execrable place of confinement, which has so long been suffered to remain a discredit to a City that on all public occasions stands foremost in acts of *Liberality, Benevolence,* and *Humanity.*

It is difficult to account for the delay in repairing this Prison, or building a new one. It does not seem to be lost sight off. At a Court of Common Council, held 26th October last, it was resolved, " That the Poultry Compter is in a most deplorable and ruinous condition, and by no means a fit place for the confinement of Prisoners of any description."

Should the preceding remarks tend to expedite the building a New Prison, it will be the highest gratification to Yours, &c. JAS. NEILD.

Doctor Lettsom, Sambrook Court.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

allowed to take the air. The keeper, however, or turnkey, was always with them, because the adjacent houses were thought capable of furnishing the ready means for escape.

Such *was* this prison in the year 1803; but the buildings being in a very dilapidated state, and in many parts shoared up with props, it became at length so dangerous, not only to the lives of the prisoners, but of other persons resorting thither, that in July 1804, an Act passed, with a degree of uncommon expedition, suited to the supposed pressure of the occasion, for the removal of "all the debtors and prisoners here in custody to the *Giltspur-street Compter*, or to such other *safe*, *secure*, and *convenient place* within the city, as should be approved of by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons thereof in Common Council assembled." It was also ordained to "be lawful for the Sheriffs, from time to time, and until the *Poultry Compter* shall have been rebuilt, or made *secure*, and *fit*, and *commodious for the reception of prisoners*, or another Compter shall be provided, to receive, keep, and detain them in such place of intended removal." This took place in consequence, and prisoners continued to be received in the Giltspur-street Compter till the 20th of May 1805; when the very crowded state of that temporary receptacle occasioned a necessity of sending all the *night* charges to their old place of destination in the *Poultry*.

Nor was this step sufficiently adequate; for in August 1806, the Giltspur-street Compter not being found large enough to contain the *criminal prisoners* of both gaols, they likewise were re-consigned to the Poultry. This ruinous and tottering pile therefore (so long before deemed hardly tenable) has now, for above eighteen months, been made the only place of confinement for the criminals of the two Compters; and the *Chapel* of the present, being turned into a *sleeping* room, for want of space, no Divine service is performed there.

The result is, that *Giltspur-street Compter* is now wholly appropriated to the confinement of the *debtors* only belonging to both prisons, until a *New Poultry Compter* shall be provided, or the old one rendered "*safe*," for we can hardly say "*fit*," and "*commodious* for the reception of prisoners."

More than five years have now elapsed: the circumstances above narrated are matter of notoriety; yet how little, if any thing, is done!!!

The two rooms already mentioned as fronting the public-house, the one set apart for debtors, the other for felons, are at present both shut up: and the *Queen's Ward*, with nearly the whole East end of the prison, have been taken down, to prevent their falling with instant destruction on the helpless inhabitants!

Master's-side felons, or those who can pay for beds, sleep in strong rooms above stairs, to which the access is from the keeper's house.

Common-side felons have, within the wooden gate, a small court, paved with flag-stones, and a miserable room called the *Rat-hole*, with an iron-grated unglazed window; and two *dismal cells* to sleep in, upon boards raised about a yard from the floor, with a *rug or two each*, according to their number, but *no straw*. One of these cells is for four prisoners, and the other for two; above which are two other rooms, of a similar description. The Chapel, since its conversion into a dormitory, has barrack bedsteads laid on the floor.

The women felons are shut up in a dreary place below, called the *Mouse-hole*. This will hold sixteen prisoners, and is fitted up in the same manner as the above are for the men. Over it is that which was formerly the *Jews' Ward* for debtors, but now set apart for the sick.

Legacies and Donations.

Christmas quarter -	£19	2	10
Lady-day ditto - -	20	13	10
Midsummer ditto - -	15	5	7
Michaelmas ditto - -	20	17	3

Annually on the 5th of November the gift of Mrs. Margaret Dame, one quarter of beef and five dozen of penny loaves, is sent by the Ironmonger's Company.

The Drapers Company allow annually fourteen pounds for the discharge of small debts up to forty shillings each, the gift of Mr. John Kendrick.

Sheriff's court, twopence each judgment,

ment, from the Clerk of the Judgments, Mr. Higden, Curriers Hall, at Christmas.

The prisoners receive 65 penny loaves every eight weeks, the gift of *Eleanor Gwynn.*

N. B. Master's-side Debtors partake of no charity, except it be particularly ordered by the Donor.

The Public-house, within the passage leading to this Prison, is rented from the City at 30*l. per annum.* I was constantly assured it had nothing to do with the Compter, although I as constantly saw that the iron grated rooms of the Debtors and Felons were supplied from thence with Liquors; the windows of both being opposite to it. It is worthy of remark that this Public-house was shut up as soon as the Poultry prisoners were removed to Giltspur-street Compter; but was opened again immediately on their being returned hither.

From the best accounts I could extract from the books it appears, that from Jan. 1, 1800, to Jan. 1, 1807, there were *Four hundred and twenty-five* Debtors committed to this Prison from the Court of Conscience; and yet, the number of Creditors who received debt and costs, in consequence of such imprisonment, was no more than *seventy-eight!*

Scanty fuel this, for the Spirit of Litigation!

My Dear Sir, *Chelsea, Dec.* 23.

It gives me pain to publish an account of this execrable place of confinement, which has so long been suffered to remain a discredit to a City that on all public occasions stands foremost in acts of *Liberality, Benevolence,* and *Humanity.*

It is difficult to account for the delay in repairing this Prison, or building a new one. It does not seem to be lost sight off. At a Court of Common Council, held 26th October last, it was resolved, "That the Poultry Compter is in a most deplorable and ruinous condition, and by no means a fit place for the confinement of Prisoners of any description."

Should the preceding remarks tend to expedite the building a New Prison, it will be the highest gratification to Yours, &c. JAS. NEILD.

Doctor Lettsom, Sambrook Court.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXIV. ON PRISONS.

"The lower orders of the people are the bees that collect the honey upon which the whole hive must be subsisted. If they are numerous, strong and active; and if they have proper materials within their reach, on which that activity may be exerted, abundance will be felt in every corner."

MONTHLY REVIEW, Vol. LVIII. p. 180.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine for *May*, 1812.

I ADOPT the sentiment of the Monthly Review in contemplating the industry in the town and parish of Halifax, the largest parish in England: wherein nearly ten thousand individuals are actively employed in various manufactures, and thereby enriching themselves, and disseminating wealth through the country.

The woollen manufactory has been long established in this parish, and appears to have been very peculiarly fostered and protected in early times, by having had the grant of a criminal jurisdiction within itself, for the trial by jury, and execution by decollation, of such offenders as were found guilty of theft to the value of 13½*d*. This jurisdiction was granted for the purpose of protecting the manufacturers goods during the night, whilst they were exposed on the racks or tenters to dry, with a mode of punishment well explained in the following letter.

To trace the various inventions of inflicting capital punishments on poor man, imbecile and short-lived in his best estate, is equally painful and disgusting. If it be justifiable to take away the life of a human being, the Maiden of Halifax and Guillotine of France appear to be the least painful; hanging and the bow-string are perhaps the next in degree of moderation; and as these do not exhibit the additional disgust, in the spilling and sight of blood, they may have been humanely adopted.

Persons who have been hung till apparently dead, after recovery, have declared that no sense of pain was experienced after suspension; and that the last and only impression has been that of a flash of light passing before their eyes. When I was a student at Edinburgh, a woman was executed there, and afterwards conveyed to Musselburgh, about six miles distant, in a cart; the road was then uneven, and she was much shook in the conveyance; on arriving at Musselburgh, she was found sitting upright in the cart. She was visited by some hundreds of students and others; and she declared that she only recollected a flash of light passing before her eyes, as above-mentioned, after suspension.

In a place so distinguished as Halifax is for industry, one cannot but regret that fourteen persons should be confined for debt at one period; and at the same time without the solace of a Chaplain, or of any religious attention. J. C. LETTSOM

HALIFAX, *Yorkshire.—The Low or Town-Gaol for Town Debtors only.* Gaoler, *Joseph Scott*, who keeps a public-house. Salary, none. He pays a rent to his Grace the Duke of Leeds of 24*l*. *per annum*; and also window tax for the gaol. Fees on commitment 6*s*. 4*d*. on discharge 17*s*. 4*d*. and 1*s*. to the Turnkey. Garnish (not yet abolished) 3*s*. 6*d*. Chaplain, none. Surgeon, none. Number of debtors, 12th May 1807, fourteen.

Allowance

Allowance, a legacy of 40*s.* worth of bread *per annum*, one twelfth part of which is sent every month (see the *Remarks.*) If a debtor be very poor, and cannot support himself, the parish to which he belongs orders him a weekly pittance.

REMARKS.

This antient gaol, which appears to have been built in the year 1662, is for the manor of Wakefield, and the property of the Duke of Leeds. The Gaoler's house is the sign of the Ducal Arms; and under it is singularly enough inscribed,

"Neat Wines—The Jail House."

Master's side: debtors are assigned the use of four rooms in the Gaoler's House, for which they pay according to their respective accommodations; *viz.* if a single bed, 3*s.* 6*d.* per week; or, if two sleep together, 2*s.* 7½*d.* each debtor. Through the house lies a passage to the court-yard, which is 42 feet by 21; and at the farther end of it is a good-sized room, upon the ground floor of the prison, for common side debtors. This they call "*The Low Gaol*," and from it is an aperture to the street, of about a foot square, for the receiving of provisions. Over that room is another, 28 feet by 19, and 8 feet high, named the "*Low Gaol Chamber*," which has a fire-place and an iron-grated and glazed window; also six sleeping-rooms, paid for at 2*s.* 4*d.* *per* week, each common side debtor sleeping singly in a bed provided by the Gaoler; or, if two sleep together, at 1*s.* 9*d.* each weekly. Persons bringing their own bed and bedding, must pay half what they would have done, if they used the beds furnished by the gaoler.

The distribution of legacy bread before-mentioned, to the prisoners, is by 3*s.* 4*d.* worth on the first Saturday in every month; and arises from the exemplary bounty of Mr. *Jonathan Turner* of Halifax, a butcher; who, by his will, left *forty shillings* yearly to the poor prisoners in the *town gaol*, to be given to them in bread. This annuity is charged upon certain houses in *Cheapside*, Halifax, now in the possession of Miss Waterhouse, who constantly pays the legacy*.

As heretofore, and under the Mosaic Law, *places of refuge were appointed* for certain offenders and others to *flee unto*; so in like manner, at Halifax, the following appears to have been established as a legal custom. It may seem a digression, but I trust its curiosity will be my apology for inserting it here. "If a felon, after his apprehension, or in his going to execution, happens to make his escape out of the *forest of Hardwicke*, (which liberty, on the East end of the town of Halifax, doth not extend above the breath of a small river, on the North about 600 paces, on the South above a mile, but on the West about ten miles) the bailiff of Halifax hath no power to apprehend him out of his liberty; but if ever the felon come again into the liberty of Hardwicke, and be taken, he is certainly executed An example whereof," says my author, is continued in memory of one *Lacy*, who made his escape, and lived seven years out of the liberty; but, after that time, coming boldly within the liberty of Hardwicke, was taken, and executed upon his former verdict of condemnation."

In this town, antiently, the barons, and after them various other proprietors, had capital jurisdiction, or the power of life and death. The method of executing it was beheading the offender by an axe in an engine, very similar to the *Guillotine* in France. The last who suffered by it were Abraham Wilkinson, John Wilkinson, and Anthony Mitchell, in May 1650. I have seen the axe; and it is still preserved in the gaol.

When any felon was here found guilty, the bailiff immediately returned him back to prison, for about the space of a week. On every intervening market-day, of which there are three in a week, the felon was set in the publick stocks; and either on his back, if the thing stolen were portable, or, otherwise, before his face, the goods were so placed that they might be noted by all passengers.

The manner of execution was thus: The prisoner being brought to the scaffold by the bailiff, and the axe being drawn up by a pulley, fastened by a pin to the side of a scaffold; if the article taken with the prisoner were a horse, an ox, or a cow, &c. it was brought along with him to the spot, and fastened with a cord to the pin that stayed the block; so that when the fatal moment came (which was announced by one of the Jurors holding

* See Watson's History of Halifax.

ing up one of their hands), the bailiff, or his servant, whipping the beast, the pin was plucked out, and execution done. But if there were no beast in the felon's case, then the bailiff, or his servant, cut the rope. This engine continued in use at Halifax till the year 1650, and was then removed; but the basis, on which it originally stood, is still remaining. See "*Halifax and its Gibbet law* *;" also *Camden's Britannia*, Gibson's edition, 1695, pp. 726, 727, where a print is exhibited of the instrument; which seems much like that called "*The Maiden*," used heretofore in Scotland for the same purpose. It is a broad plate of iron, about a foot square, very sharp on the lower side, and loaded above with a massy weight of lead.

At the time of execution this was drawn up to the top of a narrow wooden frame, about ten feet high, and as broad as the engine; with mouldings on each side for the Maiden to slide in. A receptacle was constructed, about four feet from the ground, for the prisoner to lay his neck, with a kind of bar so constructed as to prevent his moving. Thus secured, and the sign given, the engine was let loose, which, in a moment, closed his sufferings. See Owen's Dictionary of Arts and Sciences.

It is a singular circumstance, with regard to the instrument in question, that James Earl of Morton, and Regent of Scotland, having seen an execution performed by it, as he passed through Halifax on his way home, had a model of it taken, and carried it with him, for the intended removal of some who opposed his administration. After several years of inapplication and harmless privacy, during which it was called *The Maiden*, his Lordship's own head was the first cut off by it; and although after his, many others experienced the like, it still retained the name.

"The Earl's government," says Mr. Granger, (Biographical History, vol. I. p. 196) "had been very justly censured, as oppressive and rapacious; while he held the regency he was secure; but upon his resignation, in 1578-9, he was abandoned to the fury of his enemies. Accordingly, in 1581, he was adjudged guilty of high treason, for the murder of Lord Darnley; and on the 2d of June, executed at Edinburgh, for a matter, in which he is said to have been no otherwise concerned, than as being privy to the atrocious deed."

The "*Gibbet Law of Halifax*" was originally ordained in the reign of Henry the Seventh, in order to put an effectual end to the then prevailing practice of stealing cloth in the nighttime, from the tenter grounds.

"The value of the things stolen," says Camden, "must amount to above *thirteen pence halfpenny* (a Scotch merk); for, if only so much, and no more, by this custom he should not die for it."

The above prison, like what it was in my great predecessor Mr. Howard's time, *above thirty years ago*, is much out of repair, yet the rooms are clean. No firing is here allowed. Circumstanced as Halifax gaol is, it will occasion no surprize, that neither is the Act hung up for the preservation of the health of the prisoners, nor the Clauses against the use of spirituous liquors. JAS. NEILD.

* Hence arose this saying, called the Beggar's and Vagrant's Litany, "From Hell, Hull, and Halifax, *Good Lord, deliver us!*"

NICHOLS, SON, and BENTLEY, Printers,
Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXIV. ON PRISONS.

"The lower orders of the people are the bees that collect the honey upon which the whole hive must be subsisted. If they are numerous, strong and active; and if they have proper materials within their reach, on which that activity may be exerted, abundance will be felt in every corner."

MONTHLY REVIEW, Vol. LVIII. p. 180.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine for *May*, 1812.

I ADOPT the sentiment of the Monthly Review in contemplating the industry in the town and parish of Halifax, the largest parish in England: wherein nearly ten thousand individuals are actively employed in various manufactures, and thereby enriching themselves, and disseminating wealth through the country.

The woollen manufactory has been long established in this parish, and appears to have been very peculiarly fostered and protected in early times, by having had the grant of a criminal jurisdiction within itself, for the trial by jury, and execution by decollation, of such offenders as were found guilty of theft to the value of 13½*d*. This jurisdiction was granted for the purpose of protecting the manufacturers goods during the night, whilst they were exposed on the racks or tenters to dry, with a mode of punishment well explained in the following letter.

To trace the various inventions of inflicting capital punishments on poor man, imbecile and short-lived in his best estate, is equally painful and disgusting. If it be justifiable to take away the life of a human being, the maiden of Halifax and Guillotine of France appear to be the least painful; hanging and the bow-string are perhaps the next in degree of modification; and as these do not exhibit the additional disgust, in the spilling and sight of blood, they may have been humanely adopted.

Persons who have been hung till apparently dead, after recovery, have declared that no sense of pain was experienced after suspension; and that the last and only impression has been that of a flash of light passing before their eyes. When I was a student at Edinburgh, a woman was executed there, and afterwards conveyed to Musselburgh, about six miles distant, in a cart; the road was then uneven, and she was much shook in the conveyance; on arriving at Musselburgh, she was found sitting upright in the cart. She was visited by some hundreds of students and others; and she declared that she only recollected a flash of light passing before her eyes, as above-mentioned, after suspension.

In a place so distinguished as Halifax is for industry, one cannot but regret that fourteen persons should be confined for debt at one period; and at the same time without the solace of a Chaplain, or of any religious attention. J. C. LETTSOM

HALIFAX, *Yorkshire.—The Low or Town Gaol for Town Debtors only.* Gaoler, *Joseph Scott*, who keeps a public-house. Salary, none. He pays a rent to his Grace the Duke of Leeds of 24*l. per annum*; and also window tax for the gaol. Fees on commitment 6*s.* 4*d.* on discharge 17*s.* 4*d.* and 1*s.* to the Turnkey. Garnish (not yet abolished) 3*s.* 6*d.* Chaplain, none. Surgeon, none. Number of debtors, 12th May 1807, fourteen.

Allowance

Allowance, a legacy of 40*s.* worth of bread *per annum*, one twelfth part of which is sent every month (see the *Remarks.*) If a debtor be very poor, and cannot support himself, the parish to which he belongs orders him a weekly pittance.

REMARKS.

This antient gaol, which appears to have been built in the year 1662, is for the manor of Wakefield, and the property of the Duke of Leeds. The Gaoler's house is the sign of the Ducal Arms; and under it is singularly enough inscribed,

"Neat Wines—The Jail House."

Master's side: debtors are assigned the use of four rooms in the Gaoler's House, for which they pay according to their respective accommodations; *viz.* if a single bed, 3*s.* 6*d.* per week; or, if two sleep together, 2*s.* 7½*d.* each debtor. Through the house lies a passage to the court-yard, which is 42 feet by 21; and at the farther end of it is a good-sized room, upon the ground floor of the prison, for common side debtors. This they call "*The Low Gaol,*" and from it is an aperture to the street, of about a foot square, for the receiving of provisions. Over that room is another, 28 feet by 19, and 8 feet high, named the "*Low Gaol Chamber,*" which has a fire-place and an iron-grated and glazed window; also six sleeping-rooms, paid for at 2*s.* 4*d.* *per* week, each common side debtor sleeping singly in a bed provided by the Gaoler; or, if two sleep together, at 1*s.* 9*d.* each weekly. Persons bringing their own bed and bedding, must pay half what they would have done, if they used the beds furnished by the gaoler.

The distribution of legacy bread before-mentioned, to the prisoners, is by 3*s.* 4*d.* worth on the first Saturday in every month; and arises from the exemplary bounty of Mr. *Jonathan Turner* of Halifax, a butcher; who, by his will, left *forty shillings* yearly to the poor prisoners in the *town gaol*, to be given to them in bread. This annuity is charged upon certain houses in *Cheapside*, Halifax, now in the possession of Miss Waterhouse, who constantly pays the legacy*.

As heretofore, and under the Mosaic Law, *places of refuge were appointed* for certain offenders and others to *flee unto*; so in like manner, at Halifax, the following appears to have been established as a legal custom. It may seem a digression, but I trust its curiosity will be my apology for inserting it here. "If a felon, after his apprehension, or in his going to execution, happens to make his escape out of the *forest of Hardwicke*, (which liberty, on the East end of the town of Halifax, doth not extend above the breath of a small river, on the North about 600 paces, on the South above a mile, but on the West about ten miles) the bailiff of Halifax hath no power to apprehend him out of his liberty; but if ever the felon come again into the liberty of Hardwicke, and be taken, he is certainly executed An example whereof," says my author, is continued in memory of one *Lacy*, who made his escape, and lived seven years out of the liberty; but, after that time, coming boldly within the liberty of Hardwicke, was taken, and executed upon his former verdict of condemnation."

In this town, antiently, the barons, and after them various other proprietors, had capital jurisdiction, or the power of life and death. The method of executing it was beheading the offender by an axe in an engine, very similar to the *Guillotine* in France. The last who suffered by it were Abraham Wilkinson, John Wilkinson, and Anthony Mitchell, in May 1650. I have seen the axe; and it is still preserved in the gaol.

When any felon was here found guilty, the bailiff immediately returned him back to prison, for about the space of a week. On every intervening market-day, of which there are three in a week, the felon was set in the publick stocks; and either on his back, if the thing stolen were portable, or, otherwise, before his face, the goods were so placed that they might be noted by all passengers.

The manner of execution was thus: The prisoner being brought to the scaffold by the bailiff, and the axe being drawn up by a pulley, fastened by a pin to the side of a scaffold; if the article taken with the prisoner were a horse, an ox, or a cow, &c. it was brought along with him to the spot, and fastened with a cord to the pin that stayed the block; so that when the fatal moment came (which was announced by one of the Jurors holding

* See Watson's History of Halifax.

ing up one of their hands), the bailiff, or his servant, whipping the beast, the pin was plucked out, and execution done. But if there were no beast in the felon's case, then the bailiff, or his servant, cut the rope. This engine continued in use at Halifax till the year 1650, and was then removed; but the basis, on which it originally stood, is still remaining. See "*Halifax and its Gibbet law* *;" also *Camden's Britannia*, Gibson's edition, 1695, pp. 726, 727, where a print is exhibited of the instrument; which seems much like that called "*The Maiden*," used heretofore in Scotland for the same purpose. It is a broad plate of iron, about a foot square, very sharp on the lower side, and loaded above with a massy weight of lead.

At the time of execution this was drawn up to the top of a narrow wooden frame, about ten feet high, and as broad as the engine; with mouldings on each side for the Maiden to slide in. A receptacle was constructed, about four feet from the ground, for the prisoner to lay his neck, with a kind of bar so constructed as to prevent his moving. Thus secured, and the sign given, the engine was let loose, which, in a moment, closed his sufferings. See Owen's Dictionary of Arts and Sciences.

It is a singular circumstance, with regard to the instrument in question, that James Earl of Morton, and Regent of Scotland, having seen an execution performed by it, as he passed through Halifax on his way home, had a model of it taken, and carried it with him, for the intended removal of some who opposed his administration. After several years of inapplication and harmless privacy, during which it was called *The Maiden*, his Lordship's own head was the first cut off by it; and although after his, many others experienced the like, it still retained the name.

"The Earl's government," says Mr. Granger, (Biographical History, vol. I. p. 196) "had been very justly censured, as oppressive and rapacious; while he held the regency he was secure; but upon his resignation, in 1578-9, he was abandoned to the fury of his enemies. Accordingly, in 1581, he was adjudged guilty of high treason, for the murder of Lord Darnley; and on the 2d of June, executed at Edinburgh, for a matter, in which he is said to have been no otherwise concerned, than as being privy to the atrocious deed."

The "*Gibbet Law of Halifax*" was originally ordained in the reign of Henry the Seventh, in order to put an effectual end to the then prevailing practice of stealing cloth in the night-time, from the tenter grounds.

"The value of the things stolen," says Camden, "must amount to above *thirteen pence halfpenny* (a Scotch merk); for, if only so much, and no more, by this custom he should not die for it."

The above prison, like what it was in my great predecessor Mr. Howard's time, *above thirty years ago*, is much out of repair, yet the rooms are clean. No firing is here allowed. Circumstanced as Halifax gaol is, it will occasion no surprize, that neither is the Act hung up for the preservation of the health of the prisoners, nor the Clauses against the use of spirituous liquors.

Jas. Neild.

* Hence arose this saying, called the Beggar's and Vagrant's Litany, "From Hell, Hull, and Halifax, *Good Lord, deliver us!*"

Nichols, Son, and Bentley, Printers,
Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

which signifies most holy; it is supported by four hundred pillars, and adorned with three thousand silver lamps; and there is within this mosque, at the East end, a small chapel, glittering with plates of silver, in which stands Mahomet's coffin, covered with cloth of gold, under a very rich canopy, which the Bashaw of Egypt renews yearly by the Grand Seignior's orders. It is commonly reported, that his coffin was iron, and it hung suspended in the air by two load-stones; being fabulous, and of no credit, the ridiculous assertion only of such who would impose on the ignorant with their travelling authority; for it is supported by two black marble pillars, of fifteen feet high, which is surrounded with a ballester of silver, on which hang a great number of silver lamps, whose smoke and height, being very high, render the place obscure, and the black marble pillars invisible. The Turks are obliged, by an article of their religion, to visit this mosque once in their life-time; but yet there are but few that strictly observe it beside the common people, the Mufties absolving the richer sort from that obligation. The other four articles are, first, to observe cleanness in the outward parts of their bodies and garments; secondly, to make prayers five times a-day; thirdly, to observe their Ramazan, or fasts; and fourthly, to perform faithfully the Zeckat, or giving alms.

"All Christians are forbid, upon pain of death, to come within fifteen leagues of this place: all this my captain at his return gave me an account of; and not only of this, but of the more renowned city of Mecca, which is the greatest and most frequented of all Mahometan mosques, it standing in the midst of the city, and being conspicuous at a great distance by its roof, which is raised in the fashion of a dome, with two towers of extraordinary height and architecture: it has above a hundred gates, each having a window over it; the plan of the mosque has a descent of twelve steps, which the zealous here account to be holy; they alledging, that Abraham built his first house there; but more especially, that it is the place of Mahomet's birth. This mosque is adorned with rich tapestry, and gildings, and fine inscriptions; and a certain particular place at the East corner of the mosque there is, which has no roof, and which is supposed and fancied by them to inclose the space where Abraham's house stood: the entrance into it is by a door of silver of the height of a man; on one side of which there is a fountain, whose water is salt, and believed by the superstitious Mahometans to have the virtue of washing away their sins. They solemnize a festival here once a year, being on the three and twentieth of May, where meet four caravans, one from Egypt, on the coast of Barbary; another from Constantinople; one from Persia; and the fourth from the country of Yemen; which meeting there together, are computed to be near 400,000 souls, who come there as pilgrims (and under pretence of religion); but merchandising is their chiefest business; each caravan bringing the commodities and product of their respective countries, which they barter one with another, this fair, during twenty days; at which time, the Dervisees are wholly employed in distributing and selling that holy water to the ignorant people.

"With this, and several other stories of the most talked-of antiquities, my Captain entertained me with, when we were got again on board, which was on the 5th of January; then sailed again for a village called Sharne, which although not above two hundred leagues distant from Jembo, yet, the wind being contrary, and the elements not disposed to favour us, we did not arrive there till the 12th of March. It was here, although in another kind than those already passed, where I was sensible of one of the greatest strokes of Fortune. Our provision being spent, and our flour, which was the only substantial thing we had to depend on, with the dampness, length of time, and ill management, it began to move of itself, agitated by the numerous living creatures it had given birth too: so that we were ten days at least from Mount Sinai, which was the next place I could receive relief, where I resolved to go, choosing rather to run the hazard of being murdered by the Arabs, than be starved or drowned in our miserable galley, which at that time leaked very much, and obliged us, with incessant labour, to pump night

night and day, besides a difference between captain, pilot, and sailors.

"The first thing I had to do, after my landing, I immediately made love to one of the chiefest rogues of that country, to supply me with camels, and conduct me to Mount Sinai. An admirable place for any human or civilized person to be in; a villain being to be courted here, as most proper to manage your business; honesty and conscience in this part of the world being unnecessary things, not known or heard of! So I and my rogue, after having agreed, set forward for Mount Sinai; in which journey we were extremely fatigued, meeting with a disappointment in our way, finding our passage stopped up by reason of an earthquake, which had thrown down a mountain, which caused us to go two days about, and extreme sultry weather, the danger of every hour falling a prey to the barbarous Arabs, and no security for my throat's not being cut, at the first opportunity, by my honest guide, and his companions, I had taken with me: yet, by the protection of the Almighty Providence, I at last safely arrived at that holy place, Mount Sinai.

"Where, having now a little more leisure than at my first setting out, two or three days after, having refreshed myself, and recovered my sight, which was contracted so narrow at my first arrival, that I could not read one word of an Italian *Gazet*, which the Greek patriarch shewed me for European news: I had the opportunity to visit the rarities and reliques of that renowned Mountain, which, to the best of my memory, I have set down as was related to me.

LETTER LXXV. ON PRISONS.

"In some, the keeper farms what little is allowed them; and where he engages to supply each prisoner with one or two penny worth of bread a-day, I have known this shrunk to half, sometimes less than half the quantity, cut or broken from his own loaf."

HOWARD'S *General View of Distress in Prisons. Section I.*

WITH all the advantages possessed by the Prison of Reading, one cannot but regret that the system so justly reprobated by Mr. Neild, of the Gaoler's farming the provision of the prisoners, should be authorized. The impropriety of such a system is too obvious to require discussion, and too injurious to elude investigation. If the poor prisoner is defrauded, who is not in possession of scales and weights, to whom is he to complain? To the very person upon whom he is dependent for his subsistence! Here let me repeat the very words of my benevolent friend: "it is much to be regretted that some *precise orders* are not given for the gaoler's *own* conduct; some defined restraint on *his* power. I should not then have seen a miserable creature with one leg, and without a wooden one as a substitute, heavily loaden with irons!"

To have one leg only, is a severe misfortune indeed; but to heavily load that solitary leg with irons, is such a dereliction of every sentiment of humanity, as almost to challenge credibility, whilst this gaol, in many other respects, appears to possess important advantages. The duties of the Chaplain are exercised with religious care, suitable books are distributed to the prisoners, and salutary means adopted to alleviate the miseries of confinement.

Sambrook-court, Aug. 15, 1812. J. C. LETTSOM.

READING. *Berkshire.*

THE County Gaol. Gaoler, *George Eastaff.* Salary £200. Fees, debtors, as *per* table. Felons pay no fees. Garnish abolished. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Hodgkinson;* salary £50. duty, prayers and sermon on Sunday, and prayers on Wednesday and Friday. Surgeon Mr. *Bulley;* salary £30. Number of prisoners 16th of October 1806, debtors 8, felons, &c. 25. Allowance, at my former visits, ten ounces of bread, half a pound of rice, or two pounds of potatoes, to each prisoner daily. This, I was sorry to find, was altered to a contract with the gaoler; who now receives five pence *per* day, and four pence *per* week each; for which he is to supply the prisoners, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with one pound and a half of bread; Thursday, half a pound of meat, and a pound and a half of potatoes, made into soup; Friday and Saturday, one pound

pound and a half of bread; and on Sunday (for which the additional four pence is granted), with a dinner of offal meat, made into soup, with vegetables.

Remarks. This Gaol and Bridewell, placed in a very healthy situation, a little way out of the town, is inclosed by a boundary wall 210 feet in length, and 327 in depth, which, being about thirty feet from the prison, the keeper has within it a very convenient garden, for the growth of vegetables. The wall is about 28 feet high, and has a small *Chevaux de frise*, about four feet from the coping. The Gaoler's house in the centre, has an alarm-bell at the top, and the visiting magistrates' committee-room fronts the entrance gate.

The men debtors have two courts: the front is 69 feet by 57: the back yard, 28 feet by 9, with arcades to both. They have also a hall, or common day-room, with two iron-grated and glazed windows, a fire-place, seats, two tables, and proper conveniences for frugal cookery. Here are likewise two day-rooms for such debtors as can maintain themselves; over which are six sleeping-rooms, fitted up with wooden bedsteads, and sacking bottoms, a straw-in-sacking bed, a sheet, blanket, and two rugs, supplied at the county cost.

To those debtors who furnish their own beds, no charge for room-rent is made; and in the Gaoler's house accommodations are provided for those who can pay as per table. Every debtor inclined to work may be employed, on application to the keeper, who is allowed one-third of his earnings. But if the debtor can procure work from without, he receives the whole of what he earns. Women debtors have a small garden to walk in, about fourteen yards square; and a sleeping-room, of sixteen feet by nine, fitted up like the men's: or, if they can pay as per table, they may also be accommodated by the keeper in his house, as before-mentioned. At the back of the gaoler's-house, and in the centre of a spacious court-yard, is the chapel, a very neat building, and well adapted for its sacred purpose. Here the debtors are seated in the galleries; the felons and other criminal prisoners are placed below; and all who receive the county-allowance are required to attend divine service. Above the chapel are rooms furnished by the keeper with beds, at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week each, out of which the county receives 1*s.* 6*d.*

The worthy Chaplain is empowered to purchase books of religious or moral instruction, and distribute them at his discretion to the prisoners.

Men felons have a very spacious court-yard, at the back part of the prison, 150 feet by 75; with a pair of large double gates opening into it, for the admission of rough timber. Within it are three double saw-pits, where those who can learn are instructed to saw; and to whom a daily additional allowance of ten ounces of bread is given, when they leave work in the evening. On Sunday they have a dinner of meat, broth, and vegetables; on Thursday the same; on Wednesday and Saturday a quarter of a pound of bacon; and on Monday morning every working man receives eight pence in money who has properly conducted himself through the preceding week.

In the gaol-yard are two ranges of gallery, three feet three inches wide, one story above the other; and prisoners under sentence of death are executed on a platform at the West end of the gaol, to which the upper gallery leads. Each of these is divided in the middle by an arch, so as to form four galleries, into which the doors of eight sleeping-cells open. Each cell is 10 feet by 7 feet 6; and 7 feet 6 inches high; cased throughout with iron, and furnished with a straw-bed, in canvas case, a blanket and rug, at the county cost, each prisoner sleeping single. These cells are ventilated by a small iron grating over the door, and a tube of about three inches diameter in the opposite end of the cell. The aspect being South, the late keeper said they were excessively hot in the Summer; and the sewer of each, placed in one corner, useless for want of water; so that half-tubs were substituted, and emptied once a-day.

They have arcades in the court-yard, and a mess or day-room, with a fire-place, a large table, wooden-stools, or benches, to sit on; a cast-iron pot, frying-pan, gridiron, &c. for plain cooking; and earthenware for their provisions: the window glazed and iron-grated.

Here

Here are also four wards, with a court-yard to each, about 30 feet square, and well supplied with water. One is appropriated to women felons; another to gaol-prisoners detained for trial; and a third to Bridewell prisoners in the same predicament; and a fourth is for prisoners after conviction. Attached to each ward is a common day or mess-room, with a fire-place, copper, and washing-tubs, for the women; and the county allows five chaldron of coals yearly to the whole prison. For Bridewell prisoners, men and women, there are two rooms above stairs; each containing three beds for two persons in each, and furnished as the others above mentioned. In the passages belonging to these wards, and on the ground-floor, are eight solitary cells, with a small court to each; and six cells for refractory prisoners, with wooden bedsteads, and bedding as in the other cells, and in each a sewer. In the different courts belonging to these cells are arcades paved with flag stones.

All the Gaol and Bridewell prisoners wear the county uniform: their own clothes are purified, numbered, and deposited in the wardrobe, until the time of their trial or discharge. Excellent Rules and Regulations are drawn up and printed for the good government of this prison; and it is much to be regretted that some *precise orders* are not given for the gaoler's *own* conduct, some defined restraint on *his* power. I should not then have seen a miserable creature with one leg and without a wooden one as a substitute, heavily loaded with irons. Upon my enquiring the cause of such unusual rigour, the gaoler told me the man had misbehaved, and he put them on by way of punishment. I cannot help likewise remarking, that a gaoler ought never to *farm* his prisoners per head, nor be any way interested in the means or manner of their support. He should be excluded from all concern in the prisoner's allowance; from all possibility of profit, directly or indirectly, arising from the sale of their bread or other food. Whoever distributes it should be free from every motive to fraud, and subjected to a strong check. Scales, weights, and measures should be provided in all places of confinement, that so the prisoners may see that they have their due allowance. At my last visit I weighed seven loaves as sent from the baker's, and found six of them deficient in weight. The gaoler's house commanding a view of but a small part of this ample prison, the turnkey formerly slept in the chappel; but now he has a room which effectually commands the felons' court-yard.

Men felons are clean shirted and shaved every week.

Convicts under sentence of transportation have not here the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly; but the prison-allowance continued to them instead of it. Every prisoner who has behaved well is decently clothed at the time of discharge, and also receives a sum of money, not exceeding ten shillings, according to the distance from home. Petty offenders in this gaol beat hemp, cut pegs, &c. The women spin. But the most productive branch of employment is the sawing of timber; by which means the prisoner gains a new source of support when discharged from custody. The earnings from Michaelmas Sessions 1805 to Michaelmas 1806 amounted to about *two hundred pounds*. In the gaol are a warm and cold bath, and four separate Infirmary-rooms. The Act for preserving health, and Clauses against spirituous liquors, are conspicuously hung up. The court-yards well supplied with water; and the prison clean. I am, &c.

To Dr. Lettsom, London. JAMES NEILD.

Mr. URBAN, *Bridgnorth, Aug.* 21.

ON my return from London a few days ago, I observed, as I passed between Enstone and Shipstone a considerable quantity of the *Agrostis stolonifera* growing on the road-side. While I was in town, Mr. Sowerby, the ingenious author of English Botany, at my request very kindly shewed me a dried specimen of this grass; and the resemblance between this and the grass I saw on the road-side was so striking, that I collected a small quantity. As soon as I arrived at home I subjected my specimen to minute examination, and found it to be the *Agrostis stolonifera*, or *Fiorin-grass*, or *Black Scutch*.

Dr. Richardson having written very enthusiastically in praise of the qualities

LETTER LXXVI. ON PRISONS.

——— Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.
Durate et rebus vosmet servate secundis*. VIRGIL.

A RETROSPECT of antecedent days, in a moral point of view, may bring to recollection scenes of prosperity or adversity; where the mind has not been elevated by the former, or depressed by the latter, but, fortified by the past, contemplates the future with hope and gratification.

In a pecuniary point, the motto, "perhaps the remembrance of these events may prove a source of future pleasure*," may be applicable to the circumstance of the many donations and legacies to this prison, some to a considerable amount, of which my valuable Correspondent observes, that the prison-books seldom bear a record, though of the several receipts and disbursements there seems to be a very accurate account*; and a due investigation of these donations and legacies might recall important objects, long forgotten, which might prove a source of future comfort to the prisoner.

The fees, which ought to be abolished, are very high, and, consequently, oppressive. There is at the same time ample reason to conclude, that the best effects would result, were a faithful record entered at the Clerk of the Peace's Office, agreable to the Act, of all Prison Charities.

Sambrook-court, J. C. LETTSOM.
April 27, 1813.

LUDGATE.

Gaoler, *John Teague*. Salary 100*l*. Fees, on entrance and discharge, 1*l*. 17*s*. besides 3*d*. per week to the keeper. Chaplain, Rev. *John Rose*; duty, prayers and sermon on Sundays; salary 50*l*. Surgeon, Mr. *Hodgson*; salary 100*l*. and 20*l*. for medicines to Ludgate, and the two Compters. Number of debtors, April 15th 1811, twenty-seven. Allowance, a loaf of bread, weight 20 ounces, every other day to each prisoner, and one pound of rice, three pounds of beef, and five pounds of potatoes weekly, to each.

REMARKS.—This Prison was formerly one of the Gates of the City of London, and then situated on Ludgate Hill, near the spot where the London Coffee-house now stands.

It is at present appropriated for the reception of debtors being freemen of London, clergymen, proctors, attornies, or such other persons as the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen shall from time to time think fit to be removed hither. It is believed to have had formerly the privilege of permitting prisoners to go out (with a keeper) for the purpose of calling upon their several creditors, to compromise their debts, or otherwise obtain their discharge. But that custom, whatever might have been its origin, was many years since discontinued, and cannot now be traced.

About 50 years ago, when old Ludgate (to which the table of fees and rules and orders for its government were adapted) was pulled down, the prisoners were removed to the London Workhouse, in Bishopsgate-street; a part whereof was fitted up for that purpose, and Ludgate prisoners continued to be received there until the year 1794; when they were removed to the present prison of Ludgate, adjoining to, and partly encircled by, the Compter in Giltspur-street.

Ludgate has one small yard, 25 feet by 10; containing a pump, which supplies spring water from a well in the Compter; another affording soft water from the river Thames; and a shed, under which is a bathing-tub. The yard leads to eight rooms; *viz.* the hall, fitted up with benches and tables, for the general accommodation of all the prisoners, as a sitting room

* See the invaluable national Work on Prisons, by Mr. Neild, pp. 393, 394.

room in the day time, and until they usually retire to rest. It is the custom of this Gaol for the prisoners to have access to the yard at all times either by day or night. The hall has one fire-place, which is supplied by a subscription from the prisoners of six shillings at their entrance, and seven pence weekly afterwards, aided by charitable donations, the surplus of which, after payment of certain salaries hereafter described, is divided quarterly among such prisoners as have been in custody one month before the same became due.

The next is a Long Room over the hall, which will conveniently contain six persons, as a bed-room. The room over the long room will contain two persons, exclusive of two little rooms partitioned from it for the use of the sick. There is a small room over the chapel (which is on the ground-floor), and this, together with another room over it on the second story, are convenient bed-rooms for three persons each. Here are also two closets, which are used as bed-rooms for one person each. Two other rooms are on the ground-floor, on the other side of the yard; one of which is the bed-room of the steward and secretary, and the other a chamber for three prisoners. The women's ward, over the steward's room, will contain three persons. There are fire-places in the rooms, to which two chaldrons of coals a year are given by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.

All prisoners here find their own beds and bedding, except one rug yearly to such as need it.

At Christmas every debtor receives one pound of beef, one pint of porter, and one loaf, value three half pence, or potatoes in lieu of it. On New-year's day, at Easter, and on some uncertain day after, the same gift is made by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, who also occasionally give coals, according to their discretion. Michael Angelo Taylor, esq. M. P. on Christmas eve, gives eight pounds of beef, a half peck loaf, and a sack of coals to each prisoner, and the same to the turnkey.

There are also certain established donations, of bread and meat at stated periods, besides some private gifts. Money is likewise paid by several of the City companies, and others, for the release of debtors from this and other prisons, which is most frequently applied towards the discharge of such prisoners as cannot obtain the same without *undertaking to pay some further sum*, in addition to the money raised by such donations, and who are thereby prevented from availing themselves of the bounty of the honourable and benevolent Society for relief of Debtors, held in Craven-street in the Strand; of which description are the legacies of Mr. *Humble* (paid by the Leather-sellers' company, to the amount of eight pounds *per annum*), and others. The legacy of Lady *Rich* is usually applied in aid of the legacies of Mr. *Humble*, or any other benevolent donor, for the release of prisoners, at one moiety by each legacy: and if the sum of twenty-four pounds has not been advanced for such release, before the payment of Lady Rich's legacy, then the remainder is divided among those prisoners who were in gaol on the Christmas day preceding, and still remain in custody.

Benefactions to Ludgate Prison.

	£	s.	d
Christmas quarter,	20	14	11
Lady day quarter	21	0	5
Midsummer quarter,	7	0	1
Michaelmas quarter,	6	11	4

There are many legacies to the poor debtors, in this and the other City prisons, see "*Neild's State of Prisons*," page 367 et passim, which from neglect, and difficulty in procuring the payment, clearly evince the necessity of the Act which passed in 1812, to register a memorial.

Some of the legacies are very considerable, and there ought to be a person to superintend them. It would be an act worthy the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, to have an Inquiry instituted, and reported upon, how far the intentions of the respective donors have been fulfilled these very many years.

The accounts of receipts and disbursements of this prison are kept with neatness and accuracy by Mr. Teague, the keeper, who can give much useful information on the subject. I am, &c.

To Dr. Lettsom. JAMES NEILD.

Printed by NICHOLS, SON, and BENTLEY,
Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

LETTER LXXVII. ON PRISONS.

"Forsan miseros meliora sequentur †."
VIRG.

London, Oct. 2.

ON the commencement of a new and most important æra, the mind is disposed to reflect upon the past; to contemplate upon, and anticipate the future; to detect former errors, and to avoid the commission of subsequent ones.

A new Parliament, and the first appearance in it of a Regent, form an interesting combination, and particularly as connected with the misery or happiness of any considerable portion of the community; as to prevent or lessen misery, to promote virtue and ensure happiness, are prominent objects of every wise Government.

But, as it respects Prisons and Prisoners, no improvement in the former, or amelioration in the condition of the latter, has hitherto resulted. Some of the Prisons in the Metropolis admit of few means of improvement, from the buildings which surround them; but with respect to the Prison of Clerkenwell, this obstacle does not exist. Crowded as it generally is with unfortunate human beings, without the amelioration of bedding, and indeed without the comfort of straw to lie upon, and, almost without courts for air and exercise, there is ample space afforded for great additional conveniencies and comforts.—The Keeper's Garden is of considerable extent, and would admit of airing-grounds, and leave good gardens for the use of both the Gaol and Gaolers in the growth of vegetables; but, as straw is not an indulgence of this miserable prison, it is not to be presumed that humanity will be excited into action, to vouchsafe to the poor Prisoner the comfort of better or purer air, or the salutary medium of exercise. Yet humanity is characteristic of the Citizens of London; but humanity to the Prisoner is less cherished, than to any other class of our unhappy fellow-creatures: at the same time, whether in the view of humanity and national policy, no portion of the community more imperatively claims their exercise.

Yours, &c. J. C. LETTSOM.

CLERKENWELL PRISON, LONDON.

Gaoler, Samuel Newport, Salary 400*l.* Clerk, William Beeby (2*l.* 2*s.* per week) 109*l.* 4*s.* Turnkeys, six (at 1*l.* 1*s.* per week each) 327*l.* 12*s.* Total 836. 16*s.* Fees as per Table. See Remarks. Garnish, two pots of beer. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Evans, Salary, 50*l.* Duty, prayers and sermon on Sundays. Surgeon, Mr. Webb; salary 300*l.* for this prison and the House of Correction in Cold Bath Fields. Average number of prisoners for the last ten years, 96. Allowance, one pound of bread per day, sent from the Baker's, in loaves of 2lbs. weight, every other day.

REMARKS.—This Prison, built in 1775, has, over the gateway, two rooms, called "Between Gates" and "Bed-prison;" each containing three beds. These are occasionally occupied by prisoners brought in at night who can pay one shilling the first night, and sixpence every night succeeding; and two sleep in a bed; others, who cannot pay for this reception, are put into the STRONG ROOM, which is about 16 feet square. On the Women's side of the prison it has barrack-beds, but no bedding; and is lighted by two iron-grated windows. Over the turnkey's lodge is a bed-chamber, furnished, and called the "Guinea Room," because the prisoners who occupy it pay one guinea each per week.

From the outer gate is a passage to the gate of the men's court on the right-hand, and to that of the women's on the left: to each of these the descent is by six steps. In the men's court are two sheds, one 18 feet by 12, the other about 12 feet square, partly enclosed, and without windows. In each of them there is a table, with shelves for provisions, benches to sit upon, and a fire-place; to which a peck of coals per day is allowed in summer, and half a bushel during the winter. The *gate's-man* has a double allowance

* Perhaps a better fate awaits on the afflicted.

allowance of bread, half a pound of meat, with the broth in which it is boiled, and a pint of porter daily. He likewise sleeps in the BED-WARD, hereafter noticed. His duty is to attend at the inner-gate, and assist in cleansing the courts and sleeping-wards. Here are also two *shed's-men*, one of whom acts as clerk in the chapel, and the other as a barber to shave the prisoners. They are likewise employed to keep the prison clean, and receive the same allowance as the *gate's-man*. N. B. The prisoners thus occupied are what they here call *fines*, or persons imprisoned for a certain limited time.

The *Night-ward* (into which prisoners are not permitted to go in the day-time, that the air in it may be fresh and cool,) is a building on the side of the court-yard, divided into two apartments. The ground floor of it, on the right, is called, "Newgate Ward;" which has barrack-beds, without bedding; and above it is a room with nine wooden bedsteads, flock beds, two blankets to each, two sheets, and a rug; for the use of which each prisoner pays one shilling the first night, sixpence every night after, and two sleep together. This room is called the "Bed Ward;" and over it, on the attic story, is the men's sick ward, which has five iron bedsteads, and bedding for single persons; a fire-place also, with iron grated and glazed windows. The ground floor, on the left hand, is denominated "the Lower Ward," and has barrack bedsteads, without bedding. The chamber above this is called the "Middle Ward," and set apart for felons: the attic story is of the same size, and appropriated to *fines*. These rooms are of an irregular shape, measuring in the widest parts 32 feet by 28; nearly 10 feet high, and strongly planked all over, but without chimneys. For the free circulation of air, every room has in front, toward the court-yard, two windows, and three or four backward, all enclosed with iron bars, but very properly, not glazed. In this court there is a dark cell, of 11 feet by 8 feet 7 inches, and 8 feet 8 inches high, with a barrack bed, for the refractory.

The women's court has two sheds, or day-rooms, similar to those for the men, and without windows; one 15 feet by 9, the other 12 feet by 10, with fire-places, coppers, benches, and table. A gate's-woman is here stationed, who has a double allowance of bread for attending the gate; and also two shed's-women, whose office is to clean the court-yard and sleeping wards, for which they also have the same allowance of bread, and half a pound of meat daily, but no strong beer. The prisoners thus employed are likewise called *fines*. On one side of the women's court-yard, upon the ground floor, is the "strong room" before mentioned; and over it, in a passage, or gallery, are five cabins, called *pigeon holes*, each of 9 feet 4 inches, by 4 feet 2; with a barrack bedstead for two prisoners, feather-beds, and bedding. In the passage room is a wooden turn-up bedstead, with bedding; and any prisoner sleeping in these beds pays one shilling the first night, sixpence every night after, and two sleep in a bed. Adjoining to the last mentioned room is another, for women *fines*, 21 feet by 16 feet 9, with barrack beds, and three windows looking to the court-yard. Adjoining the strong room, and on the ground-floor, is the lower ward for women, who cannot pay for beds, but sleep on barrack bedsteads; this is 21 feet long by 16 feet 9, and has three iron grated windows. The women's infirmary is above stairs, and has five iron bedsteads, with bedding for single persons; it is 25 feet by 15, fitted up with fire-place, glazed windows, cupboard, and other conveniencies. The patients, at the discretion of the surgeon, are supplied with better diet, &c. and a woman prisoner attends as nurse, who is allowed a double dole of bread, with half a pound of meat, and a pint of porter per day. The windows of both the men's and the women's ward are, as they should be, too high for the occupiers to look out at. All the staircases are of stone; the ground-floor and courts are paved. In each court-yard is a pump with cisterns, and New River water is laid in from the main.

In the Chapel, the men prisoners are seated below, and the women in the gallery above. Divine service was well attended, when I was there on Sunday, 19 July, 1808, and the prisoners appeared clean.

Witnesses for the Crown are carefully

fully detained between-gates, in order to secure them from the mal-practice of other prisoners.

Here is no room to purify infected clothing, nor a bath for personal cleanliness: an essential accommodation, peculiarly needful in so crowded a prison, especially during the summer months, and where two thirds of the prisoners constantly sleep in their wretched habiliments on the bare boards, without even straw afforded them for bedding. Within the gateway of entrance is affixed a board on which is painted as follows,

"A TABLE of the FEES,
To be taken by the Keeper of *New Prison* at Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex.

	£.	s.	d.
For keeping and discharging every person committed by Warrant of Commitment. ..	0	4	6
For turning the key at every such person's discharge.....	0	1	0
For going with any person before a Justice.....	0	1	0
For a Copy of commitment....	0	1	4
Prisoners brought in by Constables of the night and carried before Justices of the Peace and discharged	0	2	0

By the Court, SELBY.

N. B. No spirituous liquors allowed to be brought in here."

Prisoners are discharged at all hours, after payments of the fees; but for failure in which they continue to be detained, unless the magistrate writes "*Poor*" on the back of their discharge. The court-yards here are by much too small for the number of prisoners; but both might be enlarged, and a salutary separation of the young beginner from the veteran in offence secured, by taking in a part of the keeper's very large garden, or of the adjacent field. No money is given to the prisoner at the time of discharge, so as to prevent an immediate recurrence to those predatory acts which brought him or her hither. The Act for preservation of health is not hung up, but the prohibitory clauses against spirituous liquors are duly exposed for inspection; and the gaol is clean.

There are Rules and Orders printed; but, being signed only by the gaoler, I do not transcribe them. Formerly Mr. Wildman, a salesman in Smithfield, and afterwards his widow, sent the prisoners beef and beer twice a week; but this kind bounty has been discontinued many years, and I have constantly been told that no donations are sent hither now.

The allowance of bread is too scanty, in a place where there is no opportunity afforded of earning any thing by labour; and the want of bedding must at times be most severely felt, as not even straw is allowed to the poor and destitute prisoners, who must sleep in their rags on the boarded floor.

I do not recollect having ever visited this Prison, without seeing *lunaticks* confined in a place so very ill adapted for them: and whilst persons committed for fines, and lesser offences, are unavoidably associated with the daring and desperate criminal, that confinement which was intended for wholesome correction, can prove no other than a seminary of vice; a sure introduction to the most infamous practices.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
JAMES NEILD.

Printed by Nichols, Son, and Bentley, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

Index.

A

Abergavenny goal 34
Adversity, Gray's hymn to, ... 28
Aeschylus on Infection 9
Air, circulation of 10-14
Alexander, Emperor of Russia ..
anecdote of 35
Alnwick castle, or castle keep ... 5
_____ dungeon 5
Andrews St Ptil, anecdote of ... 26
Aston goal, Birmingham .. 38
Asylum for Outcasts 13
Augustin Stonsprayer 25
Aylesbury county goal & Bridewell .. 65

L

Index.

B

Balbea of the Romans ---- 26
Barnard Sr John anecdote of - 19
——— Thomas reflections on the depravity of labouring children 7
Bath goal, no chaplain --- 3
Beaumont prison ----- 3
Bees, use of, in Surgery ---- 27
Belsunce, Bishop of Marseilles - 19
Bentham Mr. his plan for prisons - 5
Bott Mr. refuses admission to his works, Wantage, Berkshire - 7
Bouget Anth. Memoirs of ---- 71
Berwick goal ------- 28
Beverley goal &c ------ 20
Birmingham goal, description - 38
——— court prison --- 38
Black Hole, at Jenyance ---- 4
Booker Dr, Benevolence ---- 15
Books religious recom.d 9. 10. 20. 22. 53
——— ——— distributed ---- 53
Bristol Newgate & Bridewell -- 115
Borough Counter neglect of ---- 39
Boston town goal &c ------- 14
Bott Mr refuses admission to his works --- 7

Index.

B

Boyce, quotation from ---- 28
Brecon goal ---------- 3. 35
——— County goal ---- 34. 35
——— Bridewell ---------- 34
Brewster Rev. John his sermons to servants ---- 53
Bridewells, nurseries of vice 12. 25
——— necessity of reform 12
Bristed's pedestrian tour ---- 7
Bristol Newgate & Bridewell — 45
Buonaparte, cruelty of ---- 19

Index.

C

Cambridge sessions ---- 11
Carlisle city goal ---- 28
Cardigan session ---- 4
Carnavon goal ---- 3
——— ——— iron applied to women ---- 3
Carmarthen session ---- 4
Castle town, isle of man ---- 69
——— Rushen goal ---- 69
Chaplains, reflection on duties ---- 3
——— omissions of 6.10.17.18.22.
——— defence of ---- 11.12
——— conduct in America ---- 53.
Chauncy's account of a Clergyman 18.30.
Chedworth D. anecdote of ---- 15.
Chelmsford goal &c ---- 6-9
Chester goal excellent ---- 2.32
——— county & city goal ---- 2
——— Bridewell ---- 2
——— Exchequer ---- 32
Chevreau, quotation from ---- 20
Christ's attention to children ---- 7
——— prayer ---- 36
——— to Legislators ---- 8

Index.

Clerk persecuted, bound in straw
—— ingenious artist —— 57
Children, labour of at manchester 4. 7
—— —— —— Liverpool —— 1
—— education of —— 5, 6. 7
Cockermouth goal —— 28
Churchwardens Judicious necessary 25
Colchester goal —— 9. 15
Collyer James humanity of —— 11
Conservator, answer to —— 11
Clericus Laudinensis, answer to
Clerkenwell prison March 1805.
Cleanliness recomm. —— 75 3.
—— neglect of —— 3. 5. 6
Cooking stool —— 1
Colliers, Anecdote of —— 21
Constantine Emp. saying of —— 61
Coventry prison —— 40
—— survey squandered at
—— parliamentary Clubs 40
Cumberland county goal —— 28
Chains to the wall, Worksop prison 5
—— —— —— in prisons —— 11
Cyrus, cutting out of —— 27.

Index

D

Dale Mr of Lanark, attacks with Gault 11
Dartford Bridewell — 7-11
David, king of Scotland a prisoner — 6
——— his affairs mismanaged — 4
——— his devotion — 8
Debtors, children of, shou'd serve for — 44
——— confined for small debts — 3.4
——— try each other — 29
——— confined in dungeons — 52
——— ——— 41 y^rs for 15^d — 54
Denbigh goal — 33
Denham an Justice — 15
Derby prison — 40
Desolation in place for worship — 45
Dorset, town goal & Bridewell — 47
Divine service read 11.12 Hs. 53
Dogs die in prison air — 21
Dolgelly goal, cruelty in — 4
Donchaster town goal — 17
Dorchester town goal, excellent — 41
Ducking stool — 1
Dunbar prison, dismal state of — 5
Duncan Forbes, letter from, 5

Index.

D L

Dungeons under ground — 2

——— at Morpeth, diurnal — 5

——— — Nottingham goal — 52

Durham County goal — 24. 29

E

Earnings of Prisoners application of 6. 11. 31. 32. 30-36 —
Edinburgh Bridewell ——— 5
——— Tolbooth ——— 5
Education in Prison — 3. 5. 25
——— — Method of — 4
——— Enforced with Reflect. 6. 25
Elias Spirit of an Elisha ——— 28
Elliot Elliot Wm. Letter from — 28
Elmsley Care of ——— 21
Ely goal ——— 11
Employment in Prison, 13. 21. 30. 31. 36. 41.
——— — Method. of — 4
——— neglected — 21. 22. 27
Escapes ——— 9. 15
Events great from little causes — 27
Evils moral & physical ——— 13.
Exeter high goal ——— 50
——— Bridewell ——— 50
——— County goal ——— 57
——— —— miserable State of 57
——— —— House of Correction — 66
——— —— excellent Construction 66

Index.

T L

Tarring the poor impolicy of — 6

Tees of pensioners, cruelty of — 9

Temale sex visit the poor — 11. 25.

Tevers. Jatality of, in London — 9

Terret, punishment of. — — 26

Tellingness in pardon — 6. 8. 9. 10. 11. 17.

Tirth two Eq, answerto . . . 26

Tribertan Auger goal — — — 41

Tliat goal — — — — — — 33

Tollmiz Steam house of correction — 14

Torter J. Reinhold on Tea 31

Trattergill Dr on Reforming persons 2

G. L.

Garnish received ---------- 28
—— should be abolished ---
Genette des, anecdote of ---- 19
Georgia founded by convicts — 57
Glasgow prison ---------- 5
—— Tolbooth, Bettyness of — 5
—— Bridewell ---------- 5
—— Workhouse, excellent order 5
Gloucester goal, history of — 42
Guares borough goal ---- 21
Griffiths Richard letter from — 28
Guillotine or maiden at Halifax 74
Gurney John, Answer to — 27
—— —— —— — by Mr Bigby 29
Gye, of Bristol, prisoner, humanity of 43

H

Halifax, - - - - - - - - - - - 74
——— its Maiden or Guillotine 74
Hanging, recovery from, & effects - 44
Hereford goal - - - - - - - - 47
Hertford Goal & Bridewell — 57
——— — ironing prisoners — 57
——— — prisoners - - - - - - 57.
Horner Mr. his motion for goal
delivery, & Isle of man — 71
Hall Dr. humanity of - - - 8
——— his sudden death — 34
Haddington County goal — 5
Halsted Bridewell - - - - - 9
Hanmer Sr Thomas - - - - - 33.
Hanway Jonas, anecdote of - 33
Harbull Dr his Legacy - - - - 29
Haverfordwest prison & dungeons - 4
Health, reflections on the preservation of manufactories by
Mr Neild - - - - - - - - - 7
Hector St John Anecdote of — 27
Hereford County goal - - - - 49

Index.

H. continued L.

Holyrood house ——— 5

Holywell, Flintshire, treatment of labouring Children — 7

Hornets, use of, in destroying flies 27

Horsham goal ——— 52

Huntin Th. privateer, cruelty to — 4

Horton Vaughan Esq. suspects Magistrates ——— 4

Howard J. anecdotes of — 2. 4. 11.

—— —— monument of —— 43

Huntingdon goal ——— 53

Index.

I L

Idleness, vice of, —— 4. 6. 14. 21.

—— encouraged in Leicester
County goal —— 48

Huddersfield County goal —— 43

Imprisonment designed to
reform —— 3

—— abuses of —— 3

Inspection to prevent —— 9

Incendiary persons, impolicy
of confining —— 57

Ipswich goal, excellent —— 1. 56

—— town & borough goal — 56.

Irish servants, notice of — 28

Iron collar on a lunatic, Montgomery
3

— — — chain in Norwich
goal, 23-26. 27

— padlock per Haynes — 23

— — plate of —— 23

J

Johnson quotation from — 27
Joseph & Potiphar's wife — 37
— emperor, & Howard anecdote of — 4
Jesus, humanity of, to Lazarus — 8
— interview with Matthew — 13
— kindness to outcasts — 13

K

Kabri's Travels — 31
Kendal worsthame — 28
— education of children — 28
Kentish servants — 6
Kingston servants — 12
Kirby Mr, humanity of — 9
Knaresborough goal — 21

Index.

L. L.

Labour to be regulated ——— 7
Ladies encouraged to visit prisoners 65.
Lanark in Scotland, its police — 7
——— ——— cotton mills — 7
Lancaster castle goal ——— 29
——— Bridewell ——— 29
Lancaster Workhouse ——— 8
——— town goal ——— 8
Leg, irons, chained in Reading goal — 75
Leeds prison ——— 18
Leicester county goal ——— 58
——— town goal, industry discouraged } — 58
Liquors clause against — 10-14-17
Literary fund, origin of — 43
Liverpool goal & Bridewell — 1
——— prison ——— 59
Logan Rayners Legacy ——— 23
Lunatics confined with irons — 3
——— ——— in Carnarvon — 3-4
——— Humanity to ——— 8
——— confined at Lancaster 8. 50
——— history of three — 71
——— in Clerkenwell prison 75

Index.

M.

Macclesfield prison ——— 31
Magistrates, reflections on their duties ——— 3. 32.
——— excellent character of — 36. 41
Malden & Guilford in a Habeas — 74
Maidstone Bridewell ——— 6
——— Goal ——— 60.
——— House of Correction — 60
Manchester new Bailey prison — 30
Maniacs, observations on — 8. 54
Manufactures to preserve health in by the Medical ——— 7
Man's goal ——— 72. 71. 69
Marlborough County goal — 47
Marshalsea prison, anecdote of Nixon artist, found in } 57
Massachusetts prison ——— 53.
Mercy described by Shakespeare 21
——— ——— — Bayce ——— 28
Melton town goal ——— 21
Monmouth prison, Chaplain 3
——— county & Town goal — 34

Index.

M.

Montgomery goal — 3
——— County goal — 11
Morpeth Jurisdiction & Dungeon — 5
Morton Mr. authority details — 31
Musselburgh Jurisdiction — 6

N.

Nantwich in Cheshire treatment of
labouring Children —— 7
—— Town-goal & Prison —— 31
Neild Jr Esq. Letter to the L.d Mayor 39
—— —— High Sheriff —— 3. 8
—— —— Warden & grand Jury — 4
—— —— Reception at Edinburgh 5
—— —— health of —— 8. 15. 21
—— —— defence of —— 15. 26. 27. 29
Newcastle upon Tyne goal —— 29
Newark upon Trent town goal 16
Newell Mr. answers to —— 16
Northallerton Hardcastle —— 22
Norwich workhouse, mismanage-
ment of —— 23. 27.
—— answers to J. Gurney — 27
—— —— —— Wm Smith Esq 26
—— Castle goal —— 53
Nottingham goal —— 52

Index.

O.

Oakham county goal & Bridewell 65
Oatth haw admainistered in Scotland 5
Oglethorpe, Gen.l founder Georgia 57
Oubliettes ——————— 24. 29.
Outcasts facility for recommit 43

Index.

P

Pascoe Miss humanity of — 4
Paul & Geo. observation of — 9
Peel Sr. Robert, his act of Parliam. 7. 11.
Porter Capta. his Letter — 72
Penzance description, miserable state of, 4
Peterborough goal &c — 14
Perseverance recommended — 36
Philadelphia description, meerage &c — 4
Philistines kindness to K. David — 9
Plymouth dock workhouse — 8
——— — goal & town goal — 68
Poole Bridewell dreadful state of — 8
Poor blessing to a nation — 7 — 38
—— rates encrease of — 38
—— sickness of — 38
Pontefract goal — 18
Porter Miss Susan, her remarks — 17
Portsmouth goal — 67

Index.

P

Prayers solemnity of — 20, 22, 25
——— recommended — — 20. 25
——— neglected ——————— 29
——— sublimity of ——————— 34
Preston house of correction & prison 30
Prisons reflections on their contracts 4.
——— benefitted by periodical Essays 21. 34. 35. 36.
——— to reform, act of ——— 2.
——— ——— hints on ——— 12
Prisoners hastily discharged impolitic, 6
——— reflections by Mr. Neild — 6
——— allowed to work ——— 4. 22. 32.
——— inhumanity to, 12. 14. 17. 26. 34. 57.
——— seperation of — 19. 33. 47.
——— rewards to ——— 22. 32
——— visited alone ——— 58
——— sounding ensures — 57.

Q L

Quakers eulogy on by Voltaire - 27

Index.

R.

Rayner, a boy irond in Norwich Workhouse ——— 23. 26.

Reading goal ——— 75

Recovery, house of recommend. 9

Religious duties ——— 12. 17. 18. 44
to divine service

Richer, author of gr. events fr. little C. 27.

Richmond goal ——— 22

Rigby Edw. Esq ——— 23

——— ——— letter to J. Gurney — 29

Rippon liberty goal ——— 22

Rotherhill Jervian ——— 18

Rush Dr. ——— 19

Ruthen goal, Denbighshire — 33

——— house of correction — 33

Rushen goal, isle of man ——— 69

——— ——— further account of — 71

——— goal delivery refused — 71

S L

Salisbury county goal ---- 47.
Saunderson Mr. Letter from - 28
Scarborough prison ---- 21
Scotland prisons of ---- 5
Seward Miss, anecdote of — 2
Sheffield prison ---- 17
Sleep described by Shakespeare 2
Slavery abolition of promoted 71
Smallpox fatality of at Norwich. workhouse ---- 27. 29
Southward Simon, confined 15 years for a debt of £15 ---- 34
Southwell county Lyrid cwell -- 38.
Spencers Fairy queen —— 42.
Spinola, anecdote of. ---- 21
Stafford county goal &c ---- 36
Stamford goal ---- 14
Stedman Capt. anecdote of -- 27
Stockdale Dimmer ---- 17

Index.

	£
Sudbury goal	10
Stone Hongate	16
Sunday schools	25
Surrey County goal	17

T. 2

Taylor Dr Jeremy, anecdote of -- 21
Tea Remarks on - - - - - - - 31
— grown in America — 31
Testament, New, recommend. 19. 22
Turnbey of Walsfield, anecdote of, 26.

V. L

Index.

V

Vannière Father, Prædium Rusticum — 1

Ventilation & cleanliness — 2

——— want of — — — — 4. 5

See Filthyness.

Visiting Persons & Prisoners recommended — 3

Voltaires eulogy on Quakers — 27.

W. L

Wakefield house of correction — 17
——— Turnkey, anecdote of — 26
Wales, principality — — — — — 8
Walsall town goal — — — 34
Wadenhoe cum goal, Norfolk — 35
Ward Dr Josiah — — — 2. 19. 32
Warrington town Bridewell — 30
Wash, Wash bees, arch of — 27
Water in a cesspool, 2. 4. 5. 6. 9. 9. 15. 21
——— necessary in prisons — 2
——— under beds — — — — — 2
Wellington goal, Shropshire — 35
Westmoreland county goal — 28
Whitehaven county goal — 28
Wiltshire prisons — — — — 47
Winchester goal — — — — — 48
Wisbech goal — — — — — 11
Women in crown cases — 3
——— — ——— Brecon goal — 4
Walker hampton Bridewell 35.

Index.

W

Workhouse bad management of the Bridewell. 1 6.25

Worcester Castle Goal ------ 37.

Worthies, places of, occurring in 12. 45. 53.

Watkins prayer ------ 24

Wren & Chr. anecdote of -- 27

Index.

X, 1

Lineæ, earum subtg — 17

Index

Y 1

York prison ——————— 18. 19

Yorkshire prisons —— 17. 19. 21. 22.

Youth & Children, should
have labour regulated — 7

Index.

Z. L

Zuinneboer Dr complaining to Dr Rush ---- 19